Dark Horse Comics

OUTLANDERS

4

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INTRODUCTION

BY
JOHJI
MANABE

Greetings!

I am truly grateful to all of my English-language readers for your continuing support of *Outlanders*. I am at a loss as to how to thank you for the many letters and presents you have sent my way—my staff and I have been straining our pitiful linguistic abilities to the limit in translating your letters. Actually, it's been a pleasure!

To be perfectly honest, never in my wildest dreams did I imagine that this work, my *Outlanders*, would someday be read and loved by so many people in the U.S., Canada, and the U.K., countries with a language and culture so totally different from my native Japan. *Outlanders* has always had a special place in my heart. It was my first work to be serialized and the first to become a hit in my own country. It even spawned an animated video and a video game. It's already eleven years since I made my debut as a comics artist, but looking back, I can honestly say that it was the success of *Outlanders* that made it possible for me to eat in this crazy profession.

I've been an avid devotee of space opera since way back when. In fact, it was the *Star Wars* trilogy and the Lensman books from [the U.S.], not to mention *Flash Gordon* and many other science-fiction works, both in and outside of the mainstream, which triggered the ideas that eventually coalesced into *Outlanders*. I wanted to try drawing a story with a scantily clad blonde bombshell lying about with a sword in outer space, and by god, I did! Fortunately, I was able to spend more time than usual working up the concept and was able to put relatively more time into framing the storyline. In that sense, the script was a joy to work on for all three years of the serialization.

On the other hand, there were so many characters to deal with, and my own technique still lagged so far behind my aspirations, that actually getting the art down on paper was an endless struggle. Yet even that hardship eventually paid off, and I was able to keep the story bubbling right up to the end.

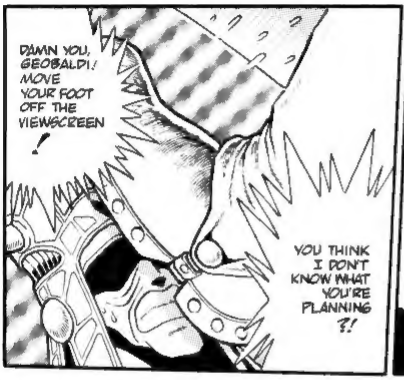
Many of my characters died in battle before the series was over. That was a bitter thing for me, as their creator, to have to deal with. Yet the fact that my readers have lamented their passing even more than I did myself is the greatest reward that any writer could desire. I only hope [these characters] continue to live on inside you all. As for myself, I pledge to take all the experience and encouragement that I have gained from my overseas readers of *Outlanders* and devote myself to bringing you new and even better works in the years to come.

—Johji Manabe
Studio Katsudon

ACCORDING TO OUR SENSORS, BOTH THE GREATEST POPULATION AND THE MOST SOPHISTICATED CIVILIZATIONS ARE CONCENTRATED IN THE NORTHERN HEMISPHERE.
WE'RE PICKING UP LARGE NUMBERS OF METALLIC OBJECTS ON POLAR AND EQUATORIAL ORBITS, BUT THEY PRESENT NO DANGER.
BATTIA DESTROYED A SMALL ISLAND OFF ONE OF THE MAJOR CONTINENTS--
...AND PROGRESSO MADE HIS DESCENT AT OTHER END OF THAT SAME CONTINENT.
HMM...

ALL AHEAD FLANKING SPEED! GERUBE SQUADRON, DEPLOY BEHIND THE FLAGSHIP!

VVNVVNVVN
GEOBALDI!
HUH! THAT FACE OF HIS GIVES ME INDIGESTION!
JUST WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?
THERE'S A CEASEFIRE IN EFFECT!
YOU GONE SENILE IN YOUR OLD AGE?!
I ALREADY TOLD YOU I WAS GOING TO FIRE OFF A SALUTE!
THUD


DAMN YOU, GEOBALDI! MOVE YOUR FOOT OFF THE VIEWSCREEN!
YOU THINK I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE PLANNING?!

I'LL REPORT YOU TO THE IMPERIAL PLANET-- I'LL SEE THAT YOU ARE STRIPPED OF YOUR FLEET COMMANDER RANK!

ENOUGH, YOU CRUMBLING WRECK!
DO AS YOU WISH! REPORT WHAT YOU LIKE!
SKRASSH

ORDER THE FLEET TO READY A CONGRATULATORY SALUTE!
YES, SIR!

LET'S PULL OUT ALL THE STOPS, EH, BOYS...?

UN UNNN

NOVOROSTOK BASE

TO ALL OUTWARD APPEARANCES, A SOVIET PVO (AIR DEFENSE FORCES) BASE, IN REALITY, THE CENTRAL COMMAND CENTER FOR THE UNITED MILITARY COMMAND, CAPABLE OF MOBILIZING ALL THE WORLD'S MILITARY ORGANIZATIONS AT WILL.

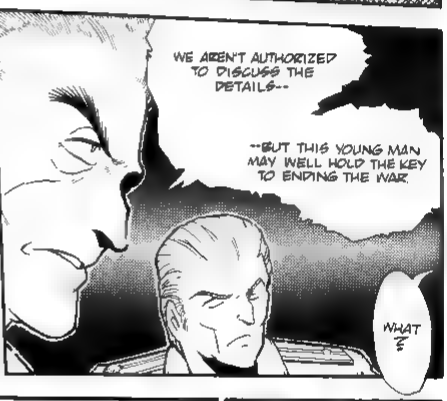
ANALYZING EVERY AVAILABLE SCRAP OF INFORMATION, THE CENTER IS THE INTEGRATED COMMAND POST FOR THE ONGOING BATTLE AGAINST THE SANTOVASKU EMPIRE.

STOP PLAYING GAMES WITH ME!!
HIS NAME WAS TETSUYA WAKATSUKI-- HE'S JAPANESE, A NEWS PHOTOGRAPHER!
AND THAT'S ALL I KNOW!
I'M AFRAID WE NEED TO KNOW MORE, MISS VOGEL. MUCH MORE.
FOR INSTANCE, WHY WAS HE TRAVELLING WITH AN ALIEN?
CHRIST, I DON'T KNOW... HE'S A WEIRD LITTLE GUY...
SMARTASS ANSWERS ARE NOT GOING TO HELP YOUR CASE, MISS VOGEL.
DON'T GIVE ME THAT KIND OF CRAP!
WHAT RIGHT DO YOU GUYS HAVE TO TREAT ME LIKE THIS, ANYWAY?!

I MEAN, WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU PLAYING AT, DRAGGING ME ALL THE WAY FROM WEST GERMANY TO SIBERIA!
THE RUSSIAN ARMY'S GOT NO BUSINESS INTERROGATING ME!
BAM
BAM
CALM DOWN, YOUNG LADY. WE'RE NOT GOING TO HURT YOU.
CORPORAL, BRING THE GIRL SOME COFFEE.
HERE YOU ARE. JUST CALM DOWN, ALL RIGHT?
YOU DIDN'T DRUG IT OR ANYTHING..?
IT'S LONG PAST TIME TO STOP SPEAKING OF EAST AND WEST
YOU SHOULD KNOW WELL ENOUGH FOR YOURSELF WHO THE REAL ENEMY IS..
...THE ALIENS!
"THOSE MYSTERIOUS INTRUDERS. THEIR TECHNOLOGY FAR SURPASSING OUR OWN..
IS IT SO STRANGE FOR THE HUMAN RACE TO BAND TOGETHER AGAINST THEM?"
.....
.....
MAJOR, SIR. HERE IS THE PHOTOGRAPH.

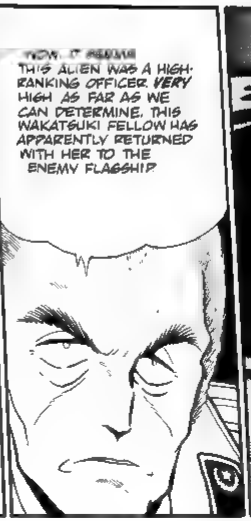
THIS IS THE "TETSUYA WAKATSUKI" OF WHOM YOU SPEAK, YES?
MAYHEM

TETSUYA!
B-BUT HOW...
WHY...?


WE AREN'T AUTHORIZED TO DISCUSS THE DETAILS--
--BUT THIS YOUNG MAN MAY WELL HOLD THE KEY TO ENDING THE WAR.
WHAT?

THE WEST GERMAN AUTHORITIES HAVE COMMITTED THEIR FULL RESOURCES TO TRACKING HIM DOWN, BUT SO FAR, THEY HAVEN'T FOUND A TRACE
AND NO CORPSE, EITHER.

THE FIELD REPORTS SAY HE COULD UNDERSTAND THE ALIEN'S LANGUAGE AND APPEARED TO BE FRIENDLY WITH HER
NO KIDDING!


THIS ALIEN WAS A HIGH-RANKING OFFICER. VERY HIGH AS FAR AS WE CAN DETERMINE. THIS WAKATSUKI FELLOW HAS APPARENTLY RETURNED WITH HER TO THE ENEMY FLAGSHIP.

TETSUYA... YOU WOULDN'T... WOULD YOU?

COMMANDER TOGO !
. . .
. . .

HOW DID THE INTERROGATION GO ?
THERE'S NO MISTAKE SIR
SHE STATED CATEGORICALLY THAT IT WAS THE BOY IN THE PHOTOGRAPH.

SO IT WAS HIM AFTER ALL. THANKS GOOD WORK, COLONEL.
WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH THE GIRL? IT SEEMS SHE HAS NO LIVING RELATIVES.
WE MAY YET BE ABLE TO USE HER ASSIGN HER QUARTERS, AND GIVE HER A PASS FOR THE OFFICER'S MESS.
YES, SIR !
. . . . .
I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT WHEN I FIRST HEARD THE NAME..

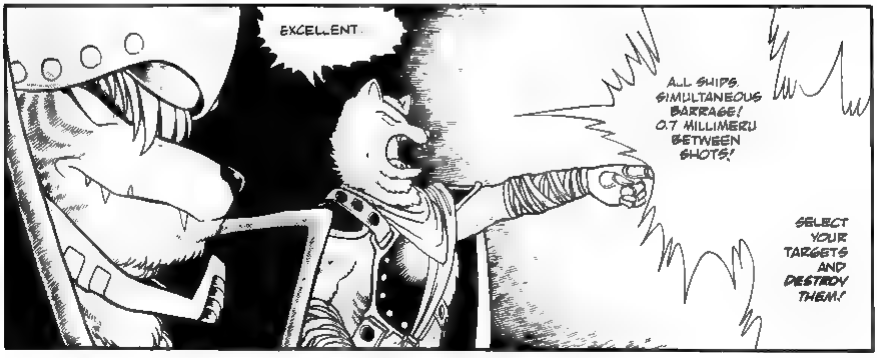
"TETSUYA WAKATSUKI!"
"THAT SAME TOA NEWSPAPER PHOTOGRAPHER THAT USED TO WORK WITH AKI OKAZAWA!"
AND, ACCORDING TO THE REPORTS ON OKAZAWA, HE'S PERSONALLY CLOSE TO HER AS WELL..
LISTEN WELL, TOGO. THAT WOMAN WITH THE HORNS MAY WELL BE A MEMBER OF THE SANTOVASKU IMPERIAL FAMILY.
CONCEAL THIS FACT AS YOU PURSUE YOUR INVESTIGATIONS!
SO, ONE OF MY OLD ACQUAINTANCES BECOMES AN INVINCIBLE SORCERESS
AND ANOTHER GOES MISSING, SPIRITED AWAY BY AN ALIEN PRINCESS...
OUR NATION MAY BE DESTROYED, YET WE HOLD THE KEYS TO THE WAR ITSELF. HOW VERY IRONIC.
BUT FOR ME, HOW VERY FORTUNATE. VERY FORTUNATE INDEED..

KZZZZZZ

MAIN GUN PRESSURE RISING. EMERGENCY VALVES OPEN. INCREASE K/H RATIO EIGHT HUNDRED!

ALL SHIPS, GUNNERY PREPARATIONS COMPLETE!

READY TO FIRE!


EXCELLENT.
ALL SHIPS, SIMULTANEOUS BARRAGE! 0.7 MILLIMERU BETWEEN SHOTS!
SELECT YOUR TARGETS AND DESTROY THEM!

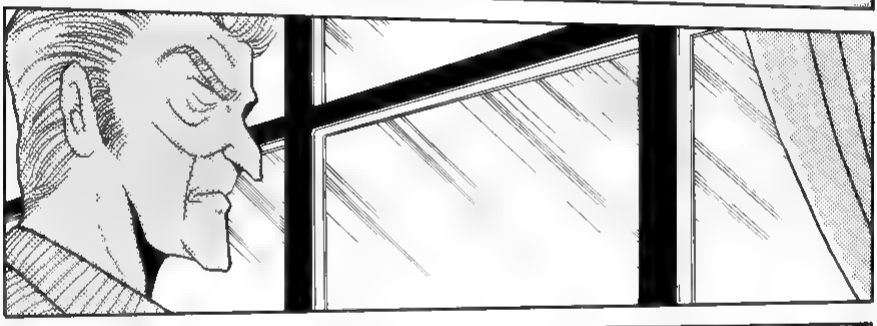
GLUP
GLUP
GLUP

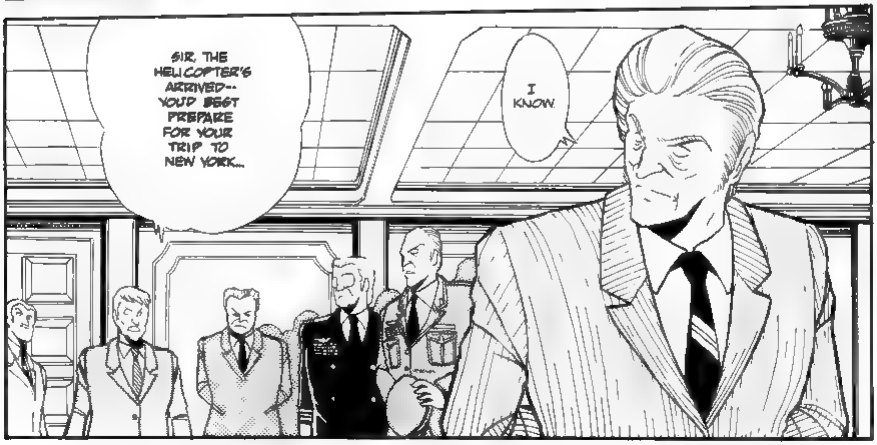
FIRE!!

ALL RIGHT, YOU LOT! TODAY IS PRINCESS KAHM'S DAY OF HAPPINESS!
LET'S MAKE IT A GOOD ONE!

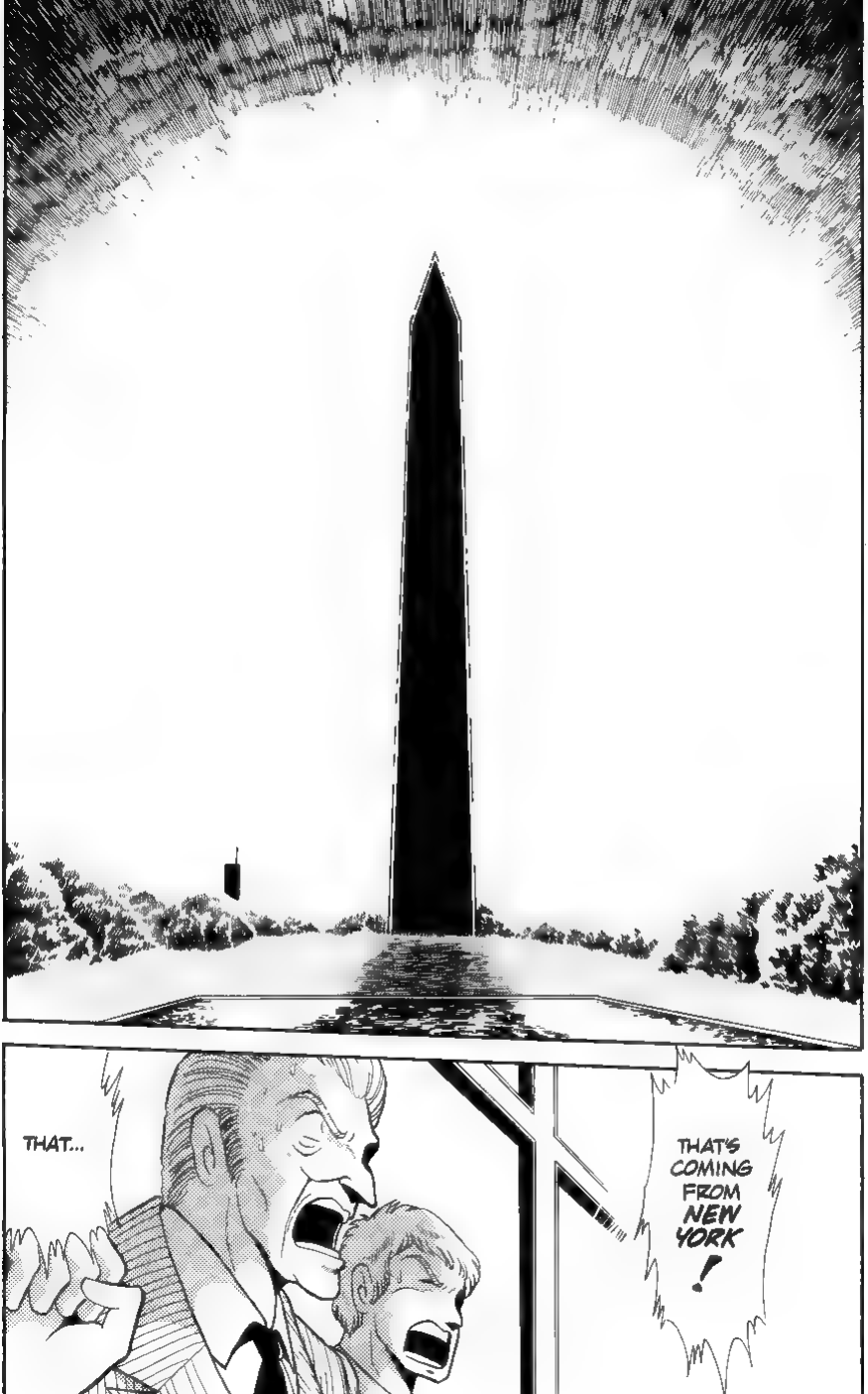
WHUP
WHUP
WHUP

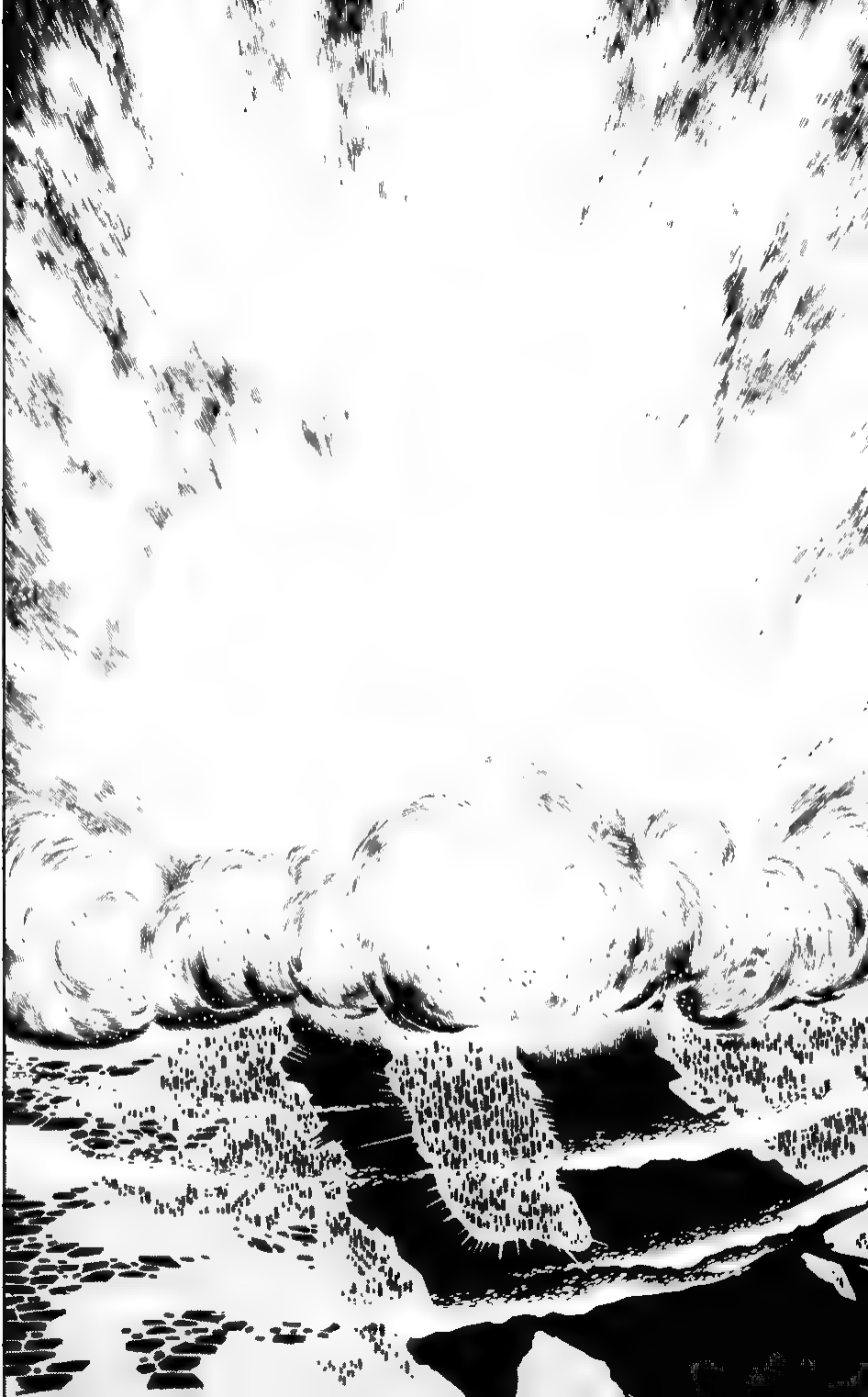
WHUP WHUP WHUP
THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON, DC

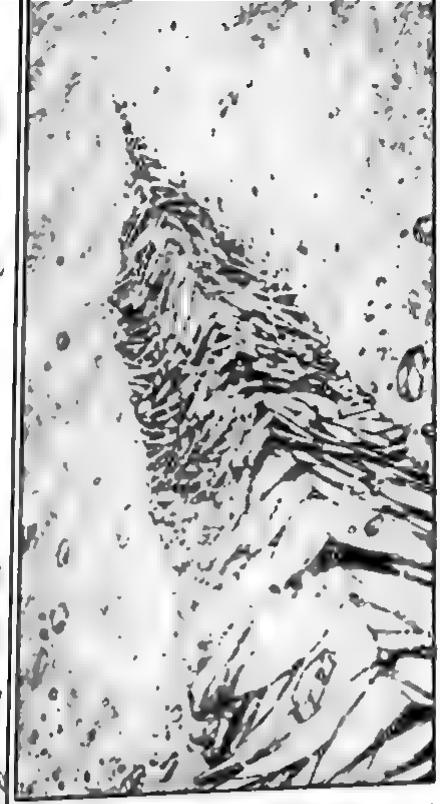



SIR, THE HELICOPTER'S ARRIVED-- YOU'D BEST PREPARE FOR YOUR TRIP TO NEW YORK...
I KNOW.

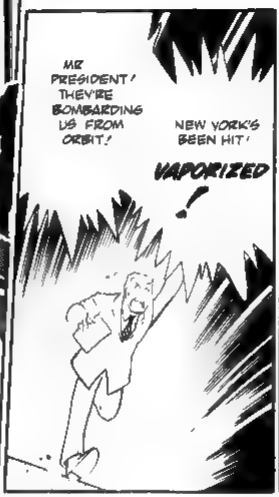
MR PRESIDENT PLEASE RECONSIDER !
EVEN IF IT IS A SPEECH BEFORE THE U.N SECURITY COUNCIL--
--IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF REMAIN HERE IN WASHINGTON.
I KNOW, I KNOW.
YET I HAVE NO REAL POWER OVER THE ARMED FORCES ANYMORE
ALL YOU NEED DO IS FOLLOW THE ORDERS FROM CENTRAL COMMAND IN SIBERIA
BUT SIR
GENERAL, THE MOST I CAN DO ANYMORE--
--IS TO TRY AND RAISE THE MORALE OF OUR PEOPLE BY ISSUING THIS JOINT DECLARATION WITH THE SOVIET PREMIER
WH-WHAT'S THAT ?!


THAT...
THAT'S COMING FROM NEW YORK!

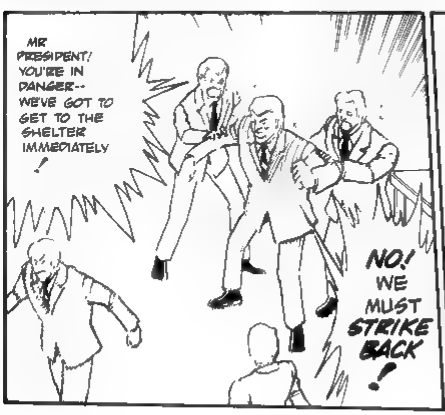


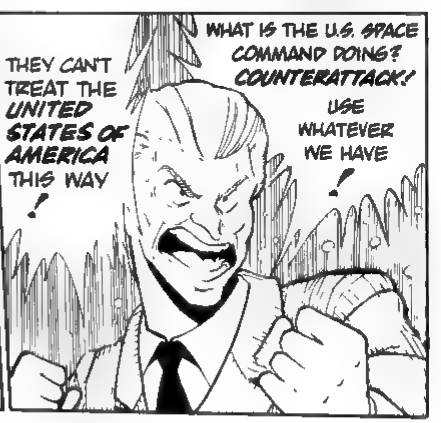


WHAT...
KATA KATA
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON ?!


MR PRESIDENT! THEY'RE BOMBARDING US FROM ORBIT!
NEW YORK'S BEEN HIT!
VAPORIZED!

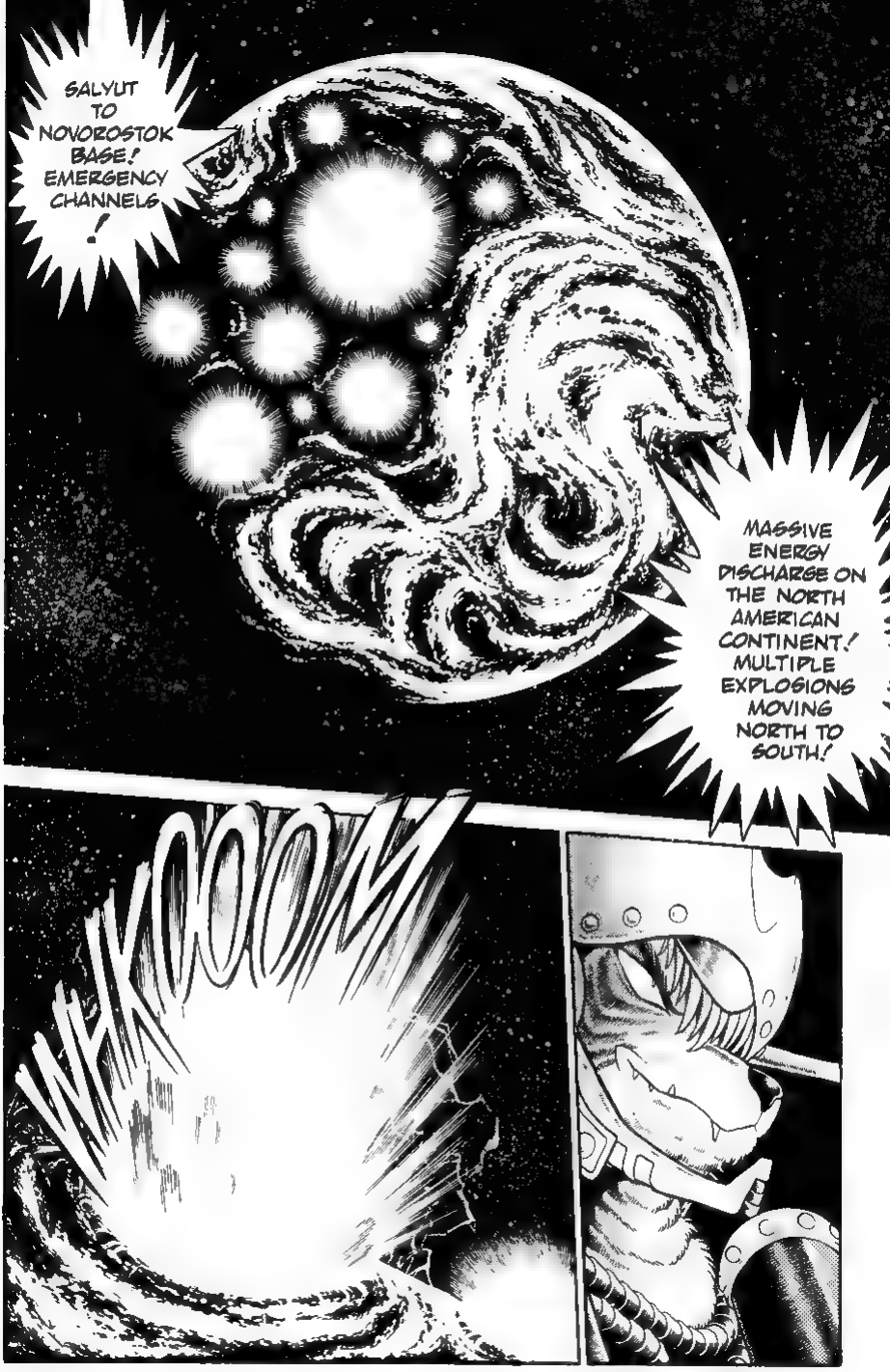
WHAT ?!

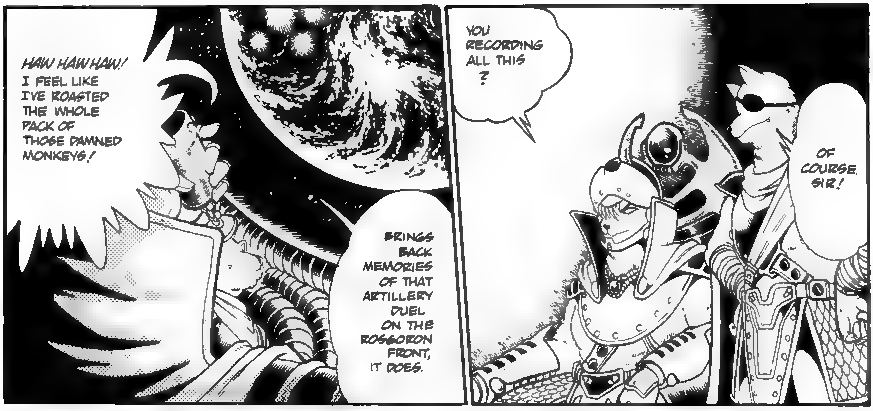

MR PRESIDENT! YOU'RE IN DANGER-- WE'VE GOT TO GET TO THE SHELTER IMMEDIATELY!
NO! WE MUST STRIKE BACK!

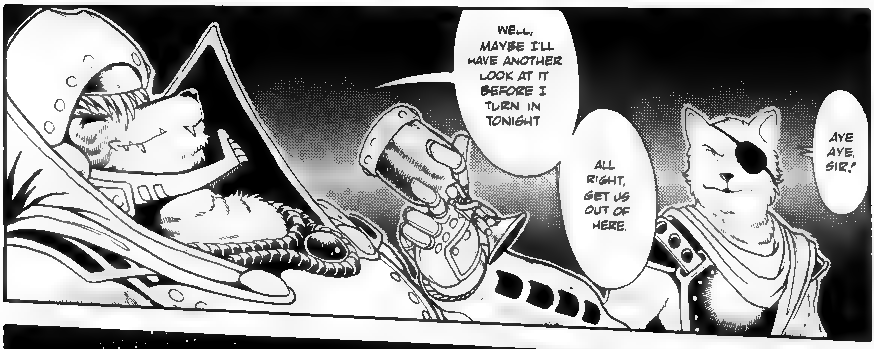

THEY CAN'T TREAT THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA THIS WAY!
WHAT IS THE U.S. SPACE COMMAND DOING? COUNTERATTACK!
USE WHATEVER WE HAVE!

!!

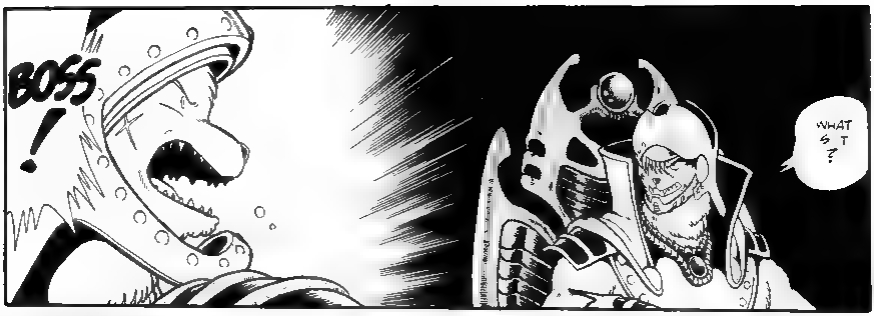
WHKOOOM

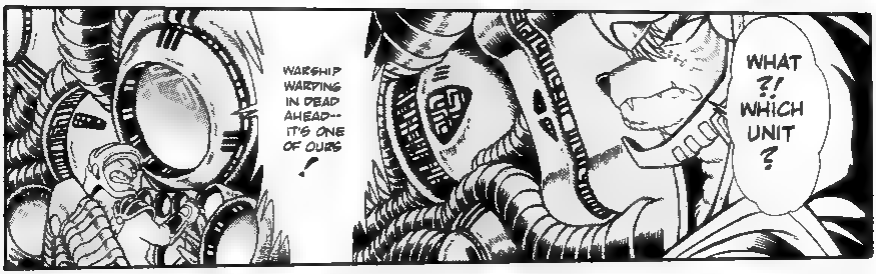

SALYUT TO NOVOROSTOK BASE! EMERGENCY CHANNELS!
MASSIVE ENERGY DISCHARGE ON THE NORTH AMERICAN CONTINENT! MULTIPLE EXPLOSIONS MOVING NORTH TO SOUTH!
WHOOOM

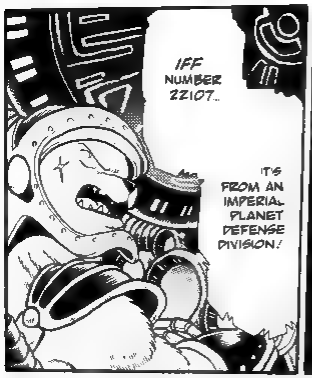

HAW HAW HAW! I FEEL LIKE I'VE ROASTED THE WHOLE PACK OF THOSE DAMNED MONKEYS!
BRINGS BACK MEMORIES OF THAT ARTILLERY DUEL ON THE ROSSGORON FRONT, IT DOES.
YOU RECORDING ALL THIS ?
OF COURSE, SIR!


WELL, MAYBE I'LL HAVE ANOTHER LOOK AT IT BEFORE I TURN IN TONIGHT
ALL RIGHT, GET US OUT OF HERE.
AYE AYE, SIR!

UUUUUUUUUUUN


BOSS!
WHAT S T?

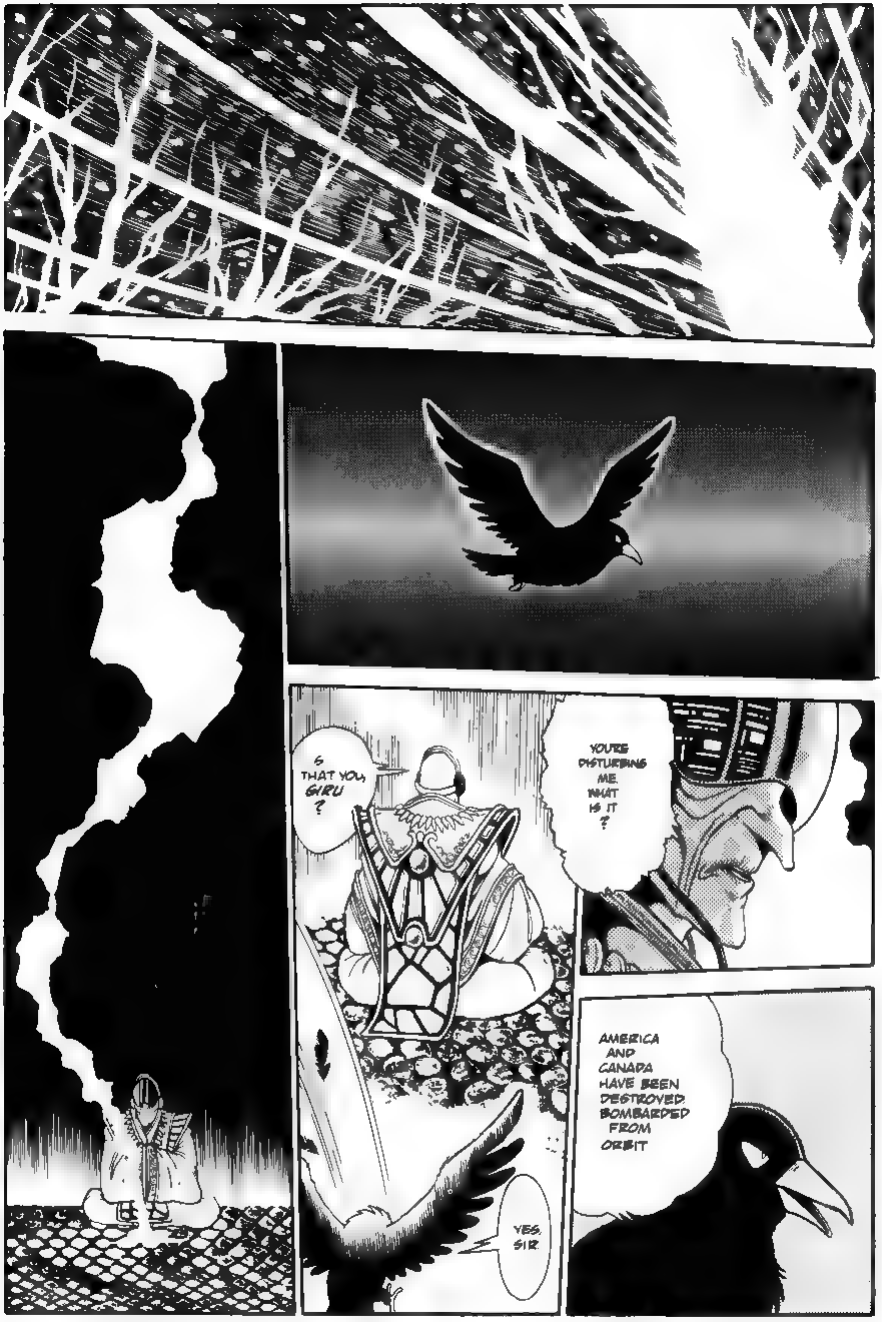

WARSHIP WARDING IN DEAD AHEAD-- IT'S ONE OF OURS!
WHAT?! WHICH UNIT?


IFF NUMBER 22107..
IT'S FROM AN IMPERIAL PLANET DEFENSE DIVISION!

AN IMPERIAL AIR DEFENSE SHIP..?

HUH! THOSE DAMNED SLUGS NEVER LEAVE THE IMPERIAL PLANET! WHAT DO YOU THINK THEY'RE UP TO T!
FIND OUT WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON!

THERE'S NO RESPONSE, CAPTAIN!
AND THAT'S NOT ALL-- THEIR EXOSKELETON'S BEEN BREACHED! THEY'RE LEAKING ENERGY!
WHO THE HELL IS THAT, ANYWAY'S DAMNATION!


IS THAT YOU, GIRU ?
YOU'RE DISTURBING ME. WHAT IS IT ?
AMERICA AND CANADA HAVE BEEN DESTROYED BOMBARDED FROM ORBIT
YES, SIR

WE'VE LOST CONTACT WITH THE PRESIDENT AND THE PRIME MINISTER.
IT DOESN'T MATTER

IT'S NO CONCERN OF OURS HOW MANY OF THESE EARTHLINGS DIE.
WE CAN'T POSSIBLY PROTECT THEM ALL.

"WE HAVE BUT ONE OBJECTIVE-- TO DESTROY THE SANTOVASKU EMPIRE!
"DID WE NOT REVIVE THE SORCERESS JILENR FOR THAT VERY PURPOSE?"

WHAT OF THAT GERMAN WENCH?
I LEFT HER TO GENERAL TOGO...
YES, SIR IT WAS AS YOU SUSPECTED IT APPEARS THE YOUNG MAN WAS INDEED TAKEN BY ALIENS

ARRESTED? OR SOME KIND OF PET, PERHAPS?
AH, WELL. EVEN IF SHE WERE FROM THE IMPERIAL FAMILY. IT SHOULDN'T INTERFERE WITH MY PLANS.

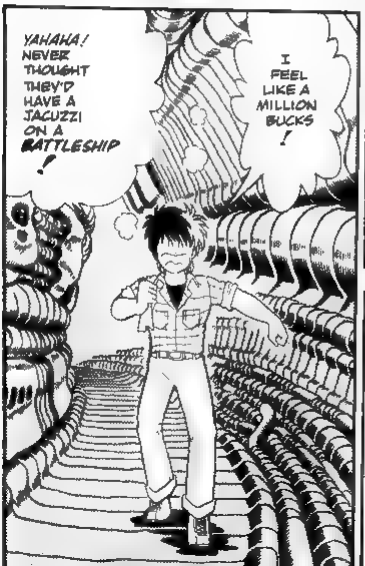
HAVE THEY IDENTIFIED HIM?
NO, SIR

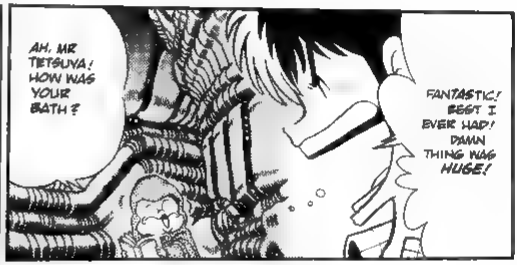
COMMANDER TOGO TOLD ME THAT ALL THEY KNOW SO FAR IS THAT HE'S JAPANESE.

INTERESTING
BY THE WAY, GIRL.

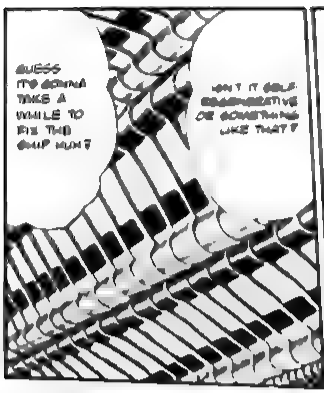
HOW ARE YOU FEELING? DO YOU LIKE BEING BACK IN YOUR OLD FORM AFTER ALL THIS TIME?
YOU HAD TO PLAY THAT "MASATO HAGIWARA" PERSONA FOR MANY YEARS. IT MUST HAVE BEEN HARD ON YOU.
BUT THANKS TO YOU, WE WERE ABLE TO ESTABLISH THAT AKI OKAZAWA WAS REALLY THE INCARNATION OF SORCERESS JILBHR. YOU HAVE MY THANKS.
PLEASE I DO NOT DESERVE SUCH KINDNESS.
IT WAS MY NATURAL DUTY AS YOUR APOSTLE. IT IS ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT I COULD BE OF SERVICE.
OF COURSE, JILBHR NO LONGER HAS ANY MEMORY OF MASATO HAGIWARA.
FROM NOW ON, YOU MUST SERVE HER AS HER LOYAL ADVISOR AND CONFIDENT
YES, MY LORD
AKI...

AHUK!
GREAT LEADER! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT ?!
KOFF KOFF KOFF
MY LORD, YOU HAVE BEEN WORKING YOURSELF TOO HARD!
PLEASE ALLOW YOURSELF SOME REST!
THERE IS NO TIME!
I HAVE PROTECTED MY BODY WITH EVERY DEVICE THAT MODERN SCIENCE CAN OFFER.. YET IT WOULD SEEM THAT EVEN SO I CAN EXTEND MY LIFE NO FARTHER.
GIRU...
TAKE CARE OF JILEHR FOR ME.
SHE'S STILL... UNSTABLE.
I SHALL


YAHAHA! NEVER THOUGHT THEY'D HAVE A JACUZZI ON A BATTLESHIP!
I FEEL LIKE A MILLION BUCKS!


AH, MR TETSUYA! HOW WAS YOUR BATH?
FANTASTIC! BEST I EVER HAD! DAMN THING WAS HUGE!

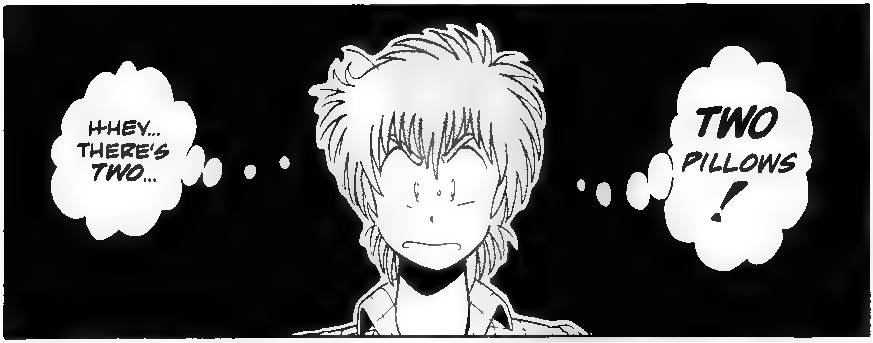
SFUNNY, THOUGH-- I COULD HAVE SWORN THERE WAS SOMETHING SWIMMING AROUND OUT IN THE M DDLE SOMEWHERE...
THAT WOULD BE PRINCESS KAHMS PET HOT SPRING SERPENT



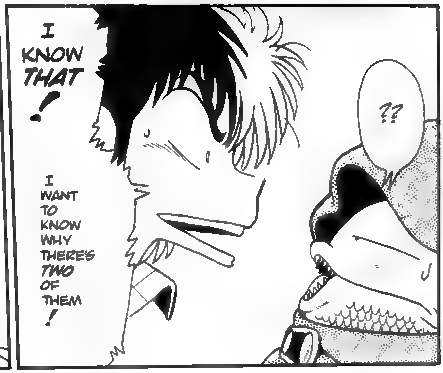
THIS IS YOUR ROOM. SHE'LL PROBABLY FIND IT A BIT CRAMPED BUT THERE'S NOT MUCH SPACE IMPROVISED

WOOW! INTENSE!

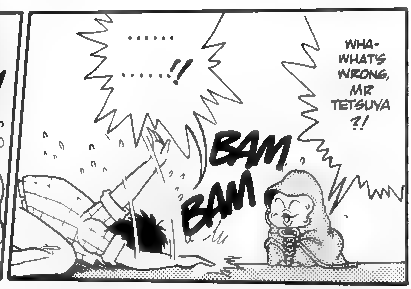
WOW, WHAT A BED! SOFT AS A CLOUD!
THE BEST MONEY COULD BUY.
BET YOU COULD HAVE SOME GREAT DREAMS ON THIS BABY!
OH, I'M SURE YOU WILL, SIR
WHA...

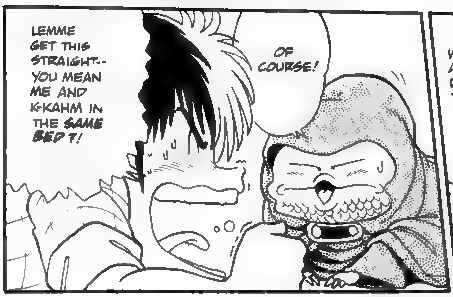

H-HEY... THERE'S TWO...
TWO PILLOWS!

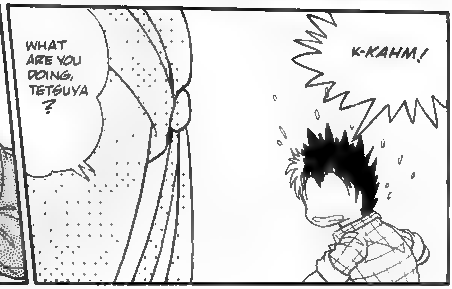
NAO...
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?
WE CALL THEM "PILLOWS."


I KNOW THAT!
I WANT TO KNOW WHY THERE'S TWO OF THEM!
??

BUT SIR. YOU'RE GOING TO BE SLEEPING WITH PRINCESS KAHM.
GURK!


.....
.....!!
BAM BAM
WHA-WHAT'S WRONG, MR TETSUYA?!


LEMME GET THIS STRAIGHT-- YOU MEAN ME AND K-KAHM IN THE SAME BED?!
OF COURSE!


WHAT ARE YOU DOING, TETSUYA?
K-KAHM!

AAHHH... WHAT A LOVELY BATH!
WHAT'S WRONG? YOUR FACE IS ALL RED.
N-NOTHIN'
CALM DOWN! IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'VE NEVER SEEN HER BEFORE
BUT THAT WASN'T QUITE LIKE THIS
JUST CALM DOWN!
MR TETSUYA! ME TETSUYA!
HUH?
HEH, HEH
DO A GOOD JOB.

WHSSSHHH
GOOD NIGHT!

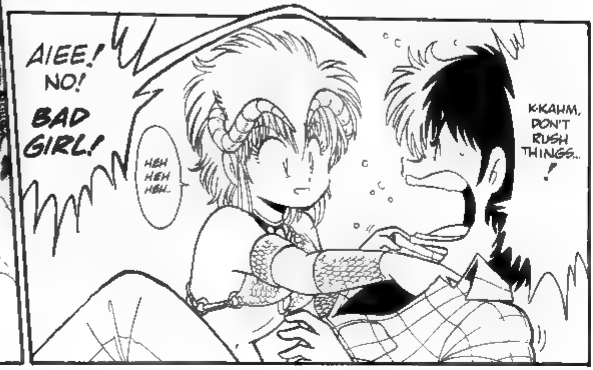
THAT LITTLE LIZARD! IT'S NONE OF HIS BUSINESS!
"DO A GOOD JOB". JEEZ!

HUH?

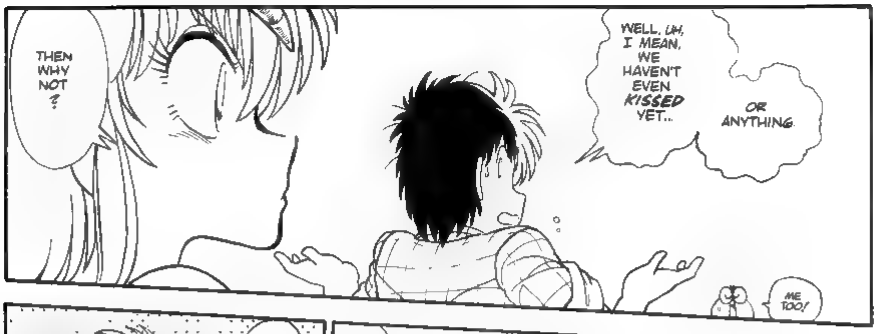
HEY! HEY, JUST HOLD ON A SEC! WHAT--

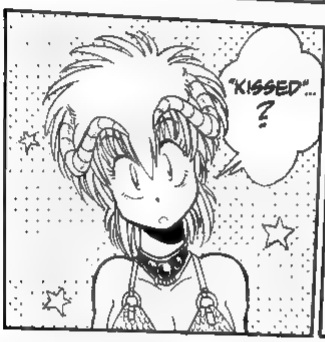
EEYAAH!
WHMP

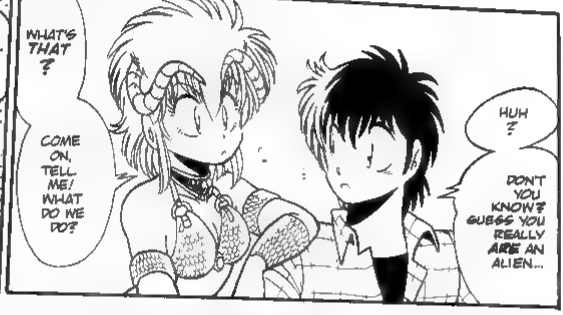
WAIT A--


AIEE! NO! BAD GIRL!
HEH HEH HEH.
K-KAHM. DON'T RUSH THINGS..!

?
W-W-WAIT A SECOND. OKAY ?!
JUST LISTEN TO ME! THIS IS NO TIME FOR US TO BE.. WELL, YOU KNOW!
THINGS ARE SERIOUS DAMN SERIOUS!
WE'VE GOT TO WORK TOGETHER AND COME UP WITH SOME WAY TO STOP THIS WAR BETWEEN EARTH AND YOUR EMPIRE!
TETSUYA. HAVE YOU EVER SLEPT WITH A GIRL BEFORE ?
ULP!
AH-HAH!! I THOUGHT SO!
AW, SHUT UP! LEAVE ME ALONE!
I'VE NEVER DONE IT, EITHER!
SINCE WE'RE BOTH BEGINNERS, THERE'S NOTHING TO BE EMBARRASSED ABOUT!
NO, HELP, I... NO!!
WHY NOT AREN'T I GOOD ENOUGH FOR YOU... ?
NO, NOT THAT!
WRONG, WRONG, WRONG!


THEN WHY NOT ?
WELL, UH, I MEAN, WE HAVEN'T EVEN KISSED YET..
OR ANYTHING
ME TOO!


"KISSED"... ?


WHAT'S THAT ?
COME ON, TELL ME! WHAT DO WE DO?
HUH ?
DON'T YOU KNOW? GUESS YOU REALLY ARE AN ALIEN...

IT'S--ER--WELL, HOW SHOULD I PUT IT..THE MAN AND THE WOMAN, SEE. THEY PUT THEIR--ER-- MOUTHS TOGETHER AND..

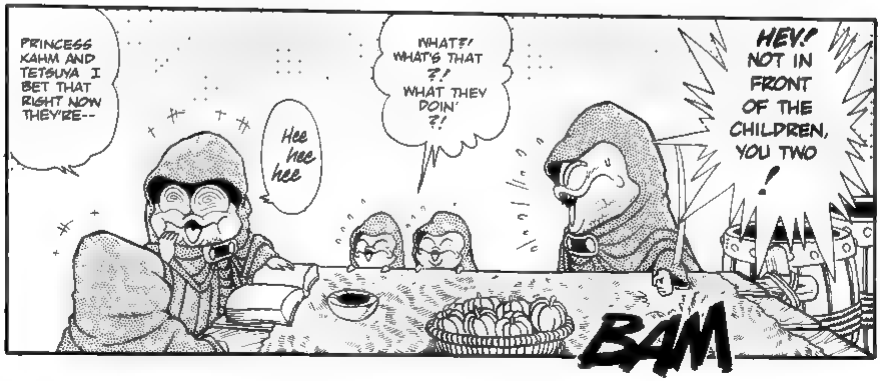
IS THAT ALL? WE DID IT AGES AGO.!
YOU WERE JUST DOING IT TO MAKE A SPELL.!
REMEMBER-- WHEN I MADE YOU UNDERSTAND OUR LANGUAGE ?
ON EARTH, A KISS IS A SIGN OF. UMM.. Y'KNOW, LOVE

HMMMM...

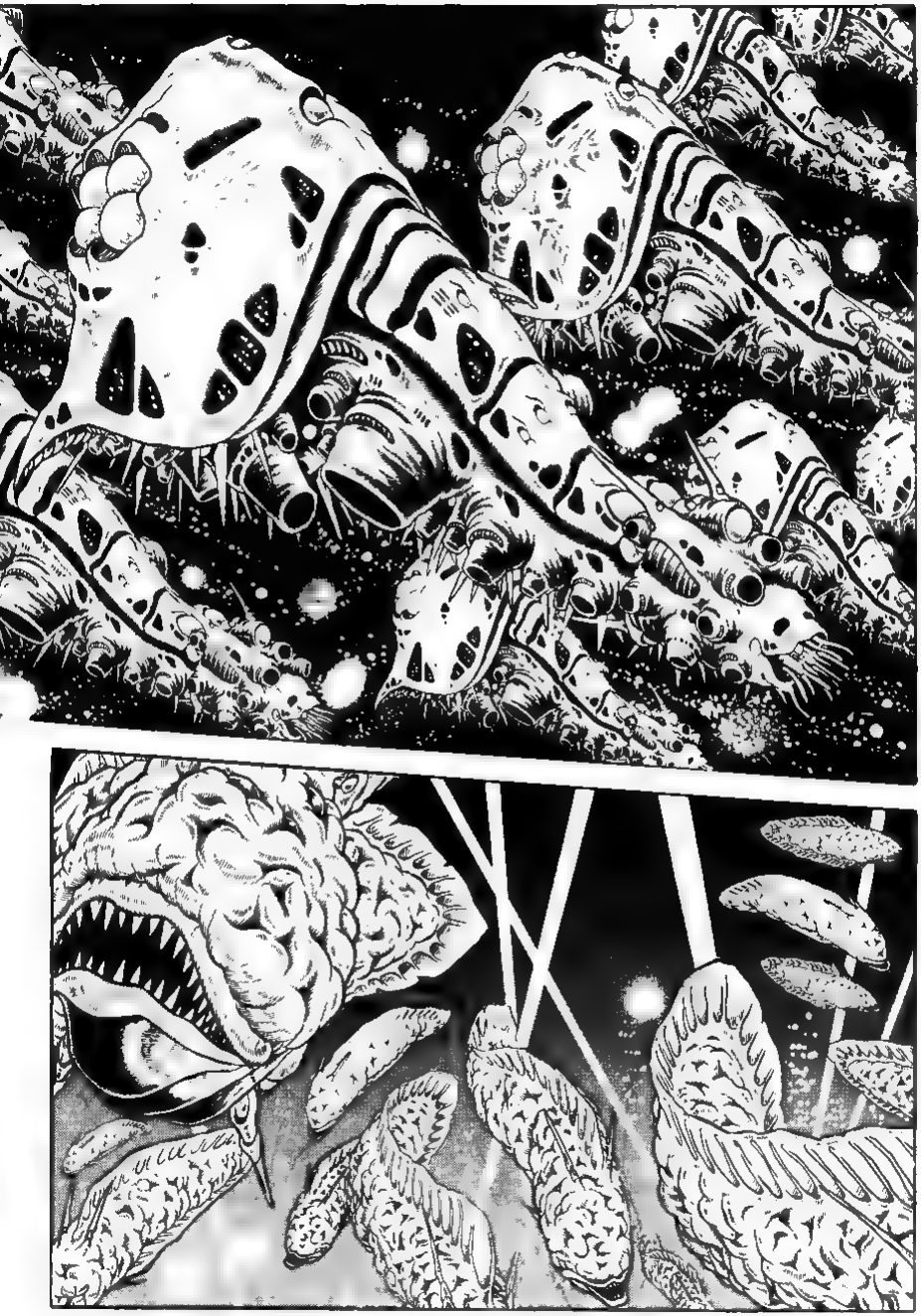
SO WE REALLY HAVE BEEN FATED TO BE TOGETHER, RIGHT FROM THE BEGINNING...!
THAT WAS JUST A COINCIDENCE!
A COINCIDENCE!

OH, YOU...!
WHIMPER
VIKE!

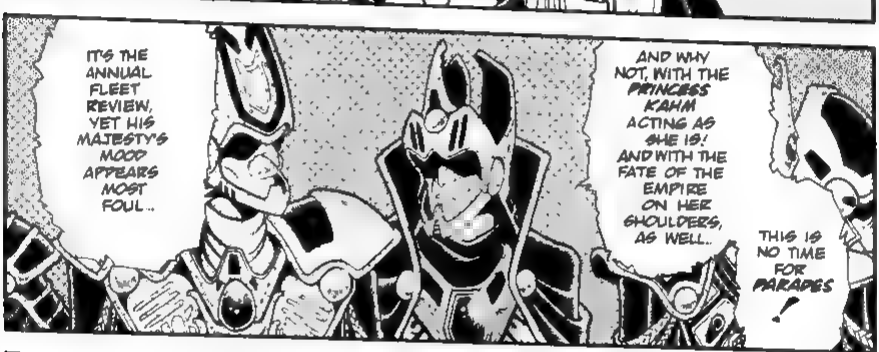
ACTING THIS WAY.. WHEN YOU'RE REALLY SO HAPPY..



UNWUNK



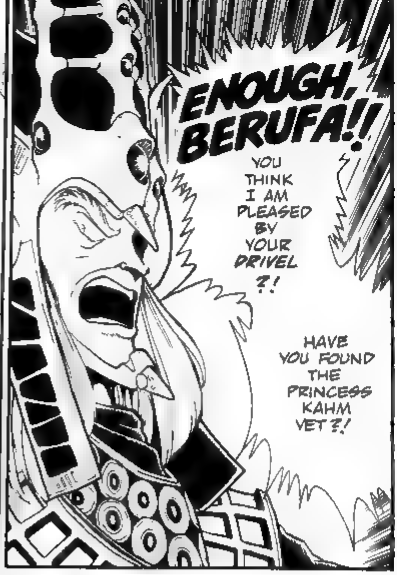
NOW PASSING BEFORE US, THE 67TH ARMORED DIVISION--
--COMMANDED BY OFFICER FIRST CLASS BHIRONBERKE DISTINGUISHING ITSELF IN ACTION IN THE KHALTAIK NEBULA AND ON COUNTLESS OTHER FRONTS--
--THE 67TH SPEARHEADED THE ASSAULT ON THE GHUEHAIVA REPUBLIC.


IT'S THE ANNUAL FLEET REVIEW, YET HIS MAJESTY'S MOOD APPEARS MOST FOUL..
AND WHY NOT, WITH THE PRINCESS KAHM ACTING AS SHE IS! AND WITH THE FATE OF THE EMPIRE ON HER SHOULDERS, AS WELL..
THIS IS NO TIME FOR PARADES!

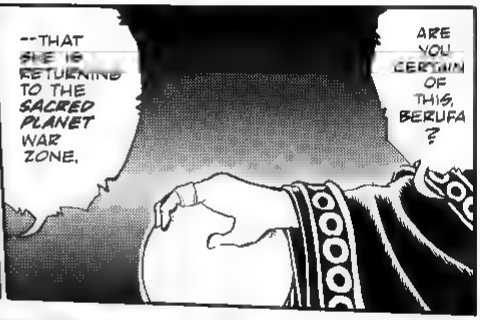
I'VE HEARD THAT THE AIR DEFENSE DIVISION COMMANDER WHO LET HER ESCAPE WAS EXECUTED ON THE SPOT.
ONLY NATURAL I SUPPOSE, AND YET.
WE HAD BEST TREAD LIGHTLY, AND TAKE CARE NOT TO OFFEND HIS MAJESTY

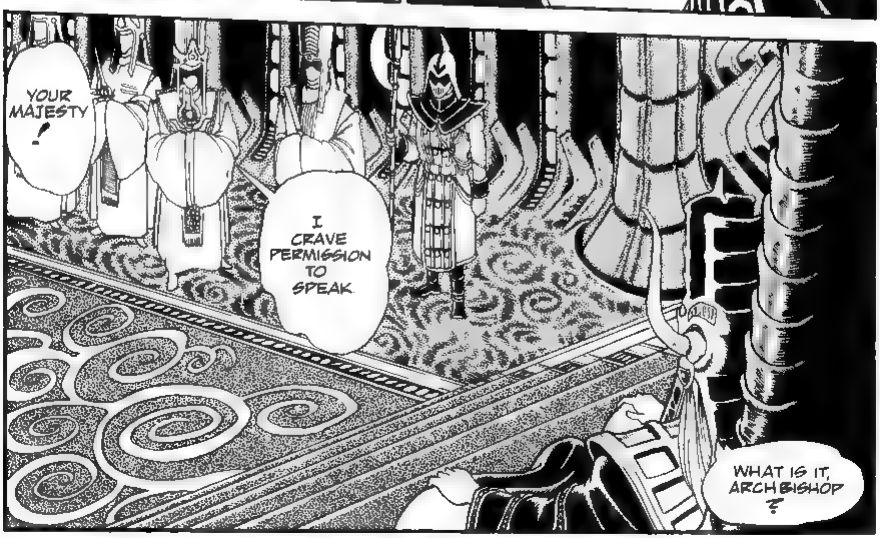
FEAST YOUR EYES, YOUR HIGHNESS. BEHOLD THE STIRRING SIGHT OF THE INVINCIBLE ARMADA OF THE SANTOVASKU EMPIRE!
TRULY THIS IS A WORTHY SYMBOL FOR OUR MIGHTY EMPIRE, REIGNING UNCHALLENGED OVER THE ENTIRE GALAXY.
GRAND CHAMBERLAIN BERUFA

UNDER THE GREAT LEADERSHIP OF YOUR MAJESTY, THE SANTOVASKU TERRITORIES HAVE EXPANDED AS NEVER BEFORE. YOUR MAJESTY'S NAME SHALL GO DOWN IN HISTORY AS THE --

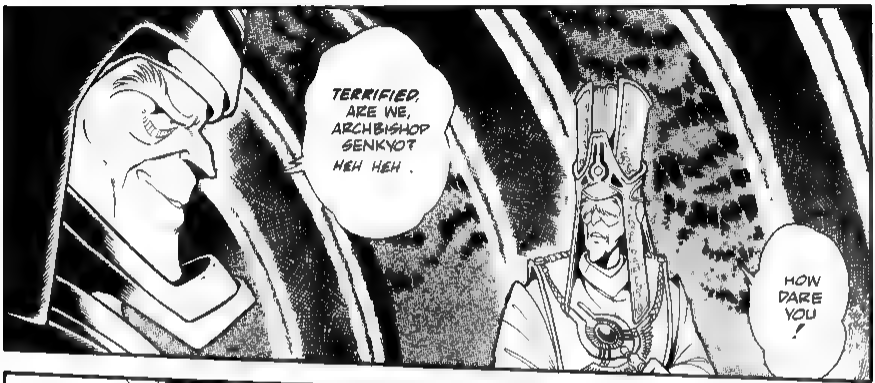

ENOUGH, BERUFA!!
YOU THINK I AM PLEASED BY YOUR DRIVEL ?!
HAVE YOU FOUND THE PRINCESS KAHM YET ?!

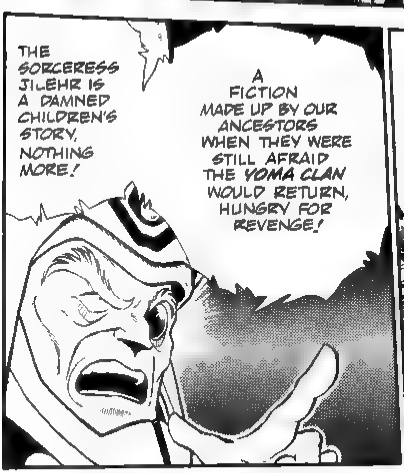
N-NOT YET, YOUR MAJESTY. OUR RECONNAISSANCE BRIGADES ARE SEARCHING EVEN NOW. YET, ALL EVIDENCE SUGGESTS--

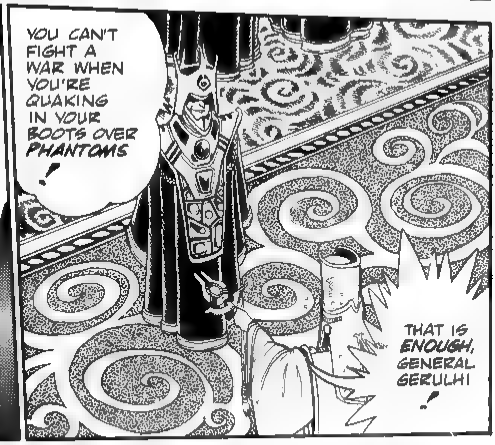

--THAT SHE IS RETURNING TO THE SACRED PLANET WAR ZONE.
ARE YOU CERTAIN OF THIS, BERUFA ?

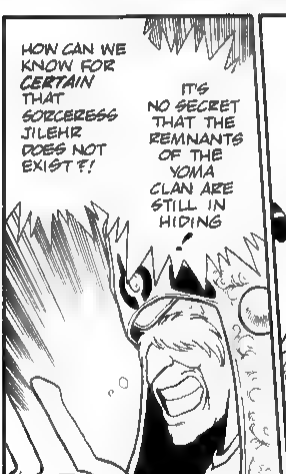

YOUR MAJESTY !
I CRAVE PERMISSION TO SPEAK.
WHAT IS IT, ARCHBISHOP ?

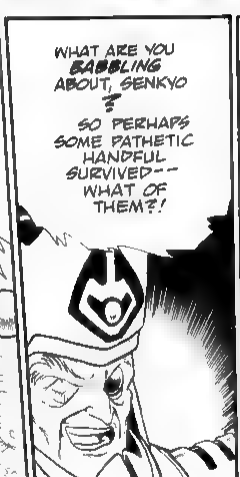
ARCHBISHOP SENKYO
MY LORD, I HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW THE COMMUNICATIONS LOG FROM PROGRESSO'S FLEET BEFORE IT WAS DESTROYED OVER THE SACRED PLANET
I DIRECTED MY STAFF TO ANALYZE AND ASSESS THIS DATA.
BY NO STRETCH OF THE IMAGINATION COULD THIS DISASTER BE EXPLAINED AS THE WORK OF THOSE.. EARTHLINGS.
THE POWER TO CRUSH AN ENTIRE SANTOVASKU FLEET CAN ONLY EXIST IN THE REALM OF LEGEND, SIRE.
IT MUST BE THE SORCERESS JILEHR!
TH-THE SORCERESS JILEHR?
SHE WHOM THE ANCIENTS PROPHESIED WOULD BRING DOOM UPON US, SHOULD SHE REAPPEAR?!
YOUR MAJESTY, THIS IS A MATTER OF THE GRAVEST CONCERN TO THE EMPIRE!
WE MUST MOVE IMMEDIATELY TO DEVISE APPROPRIATE--


TERRIFIED, ARE WE, ARCHBISHOP SENKYO? HEH HEH.
HOW DARE YOU!


THE SORCERESS JILEHR IS A DAMNED CHILDREN'S STORY, NOTHING MORE!
A FICTION MADE UP BY OUR ANCESTORS WHEN THEY WERE STILL AFRAID THE YOMA CLAN WOULD RETURN, HUNGRY FOR REVENGE!

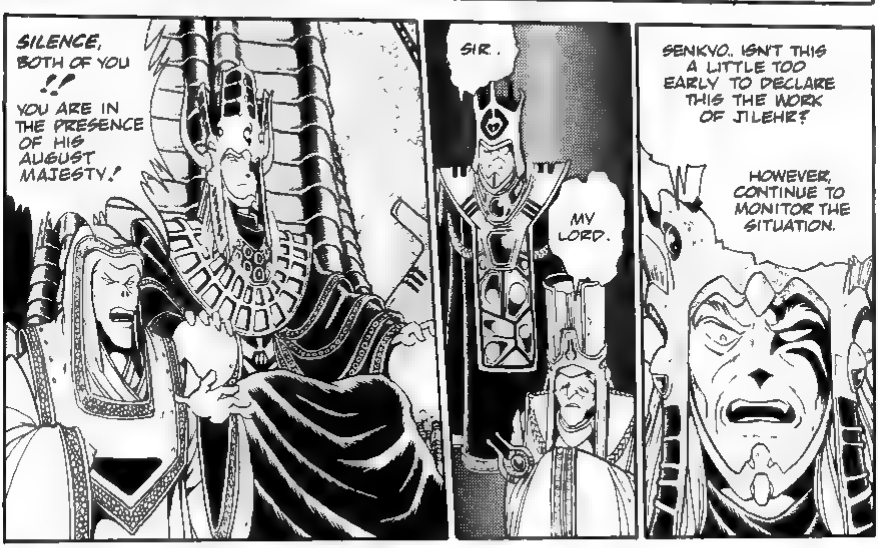

YOU CAN'T FIGHT A WAR WHEN YOU'RE QUAKING IN YOUR BOOTS OVER PHANTOMS!
THAT IS ENOUGH, GENERAL GERULHI!

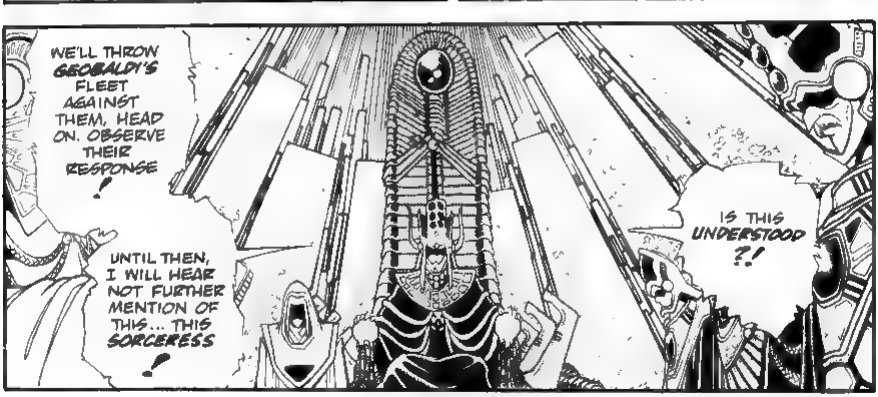

HOW CAN WE KNOW FOR CERTAIN THAT SORCERESS JILEHR DOES NOT EXIST?!
IT'S NO SECRET THAT THE REMNANTS OF THE YOMA CLAN ARE STILL IN HIDING!


WHAT ARE YOU BABBLING ABOUT, SENKYO?
SO PERHAPS SOME PATHETIC HANDFUL SURVIVED--WHAT OF THEM?!

A THREAT TO THE EMPIRE?! A THREAT TO BATTLE FLEETS LIKE THESE?! DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH!
SILENCE! ARROGANCE SUCH AS YOURS HAS TURNED CERTAIN VICTORY INTO DEFEAT BEFORE! CONCEITED FOOL!

FOOL, IS IT T' BEST YOU HOLD YOUR TONGUE--
--YOU DODDERING COWARD !!
WHAT INSOLENCE IS THIS ?!
I, A COWARD ?!
THIS IS A DELIBERATE AFFRONT TO THE PRIESTHOOD !

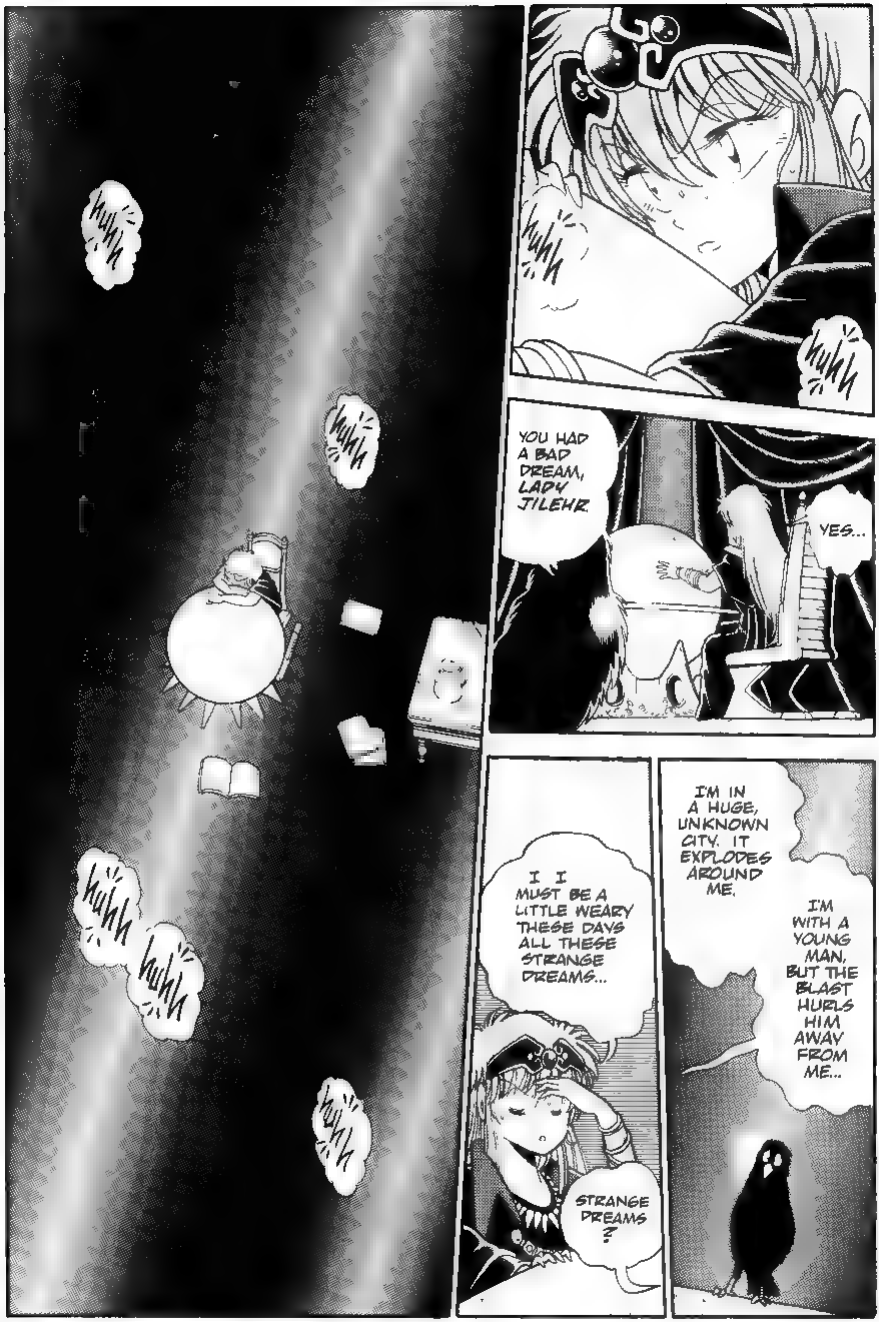

SILENCE, BOTH OF YOU !! YOU ARE IN THE PRESENCE OF HIS AUGUST MAJESTY.!
SIR.
MY LORD.
SENKYO. ISN'T THIS A LITTLE TOO EARLY TO DECLARE THIS THE WORK OF JILEHR?
HOWEVER, CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE SITUATION.


WE'LL THROW GEOBALDI'S FLEET AGAINST THEM, HEAD ON. OBSERVE THEIR RESPONSE !
UNTIL THEN, I WILL HEAR NOT FURTHER MENTION OF THIS... THIS SORCERESS !
IS THIS UNDERSTOOD ?!

AKI! HELP ME!

WHOOM

NOOOOOO!!

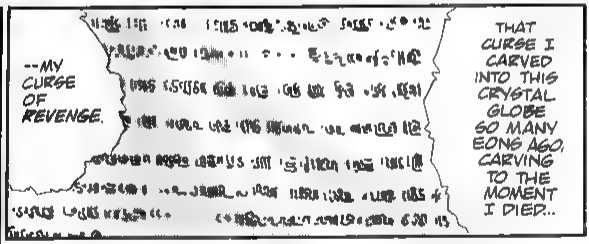

huhh
huhh
huhh
huhh
huhh
huhh
YOU HAD A BAD DREAM, LADY JILEHR.
YES...
I I MUST BE A LITTLE WEARY THESE DAYS ALL THESE STRANGE DREAMS...
STRANGE DREAMS ?
I'M IN A HUGE, UNKNOWN CITY. IT EXPLODES AROUND ME.
I'M WITH A YOUNG MAN, BUT THE BLAST HURLS HIM AWAY FROM ME...

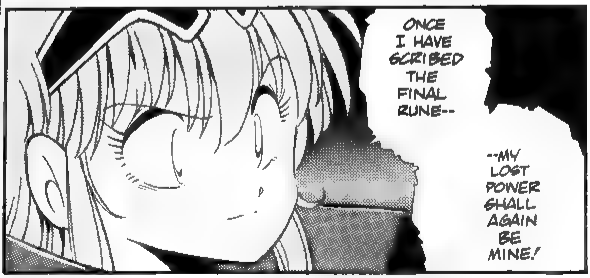
AND THEN HE. DISINTEGRATES. VANISHES

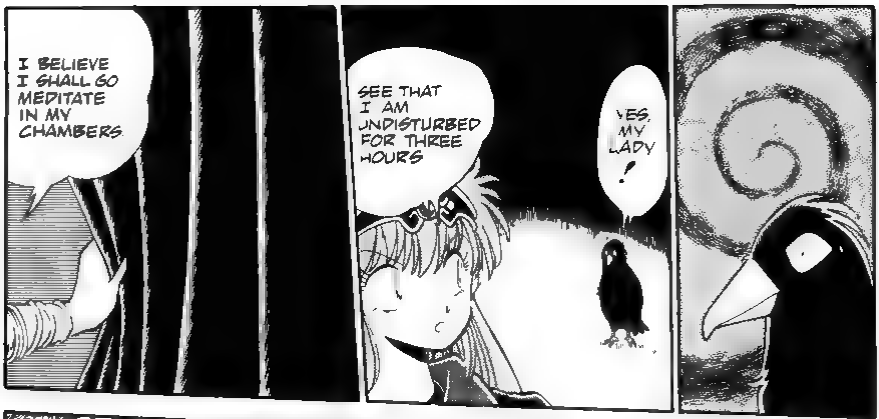
NOT... NOT A PLEASANT DREAM, MY LADY.

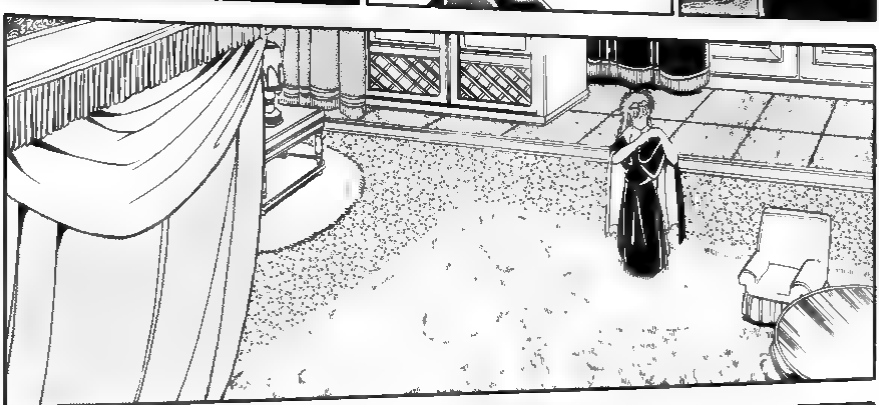
WHY DO YOU SUPPOSE I KEEP HAVING IT, GIRU?
I..
I CAN'T IMAGINE YOU MUST BE WEARY, AS YOU SAY.

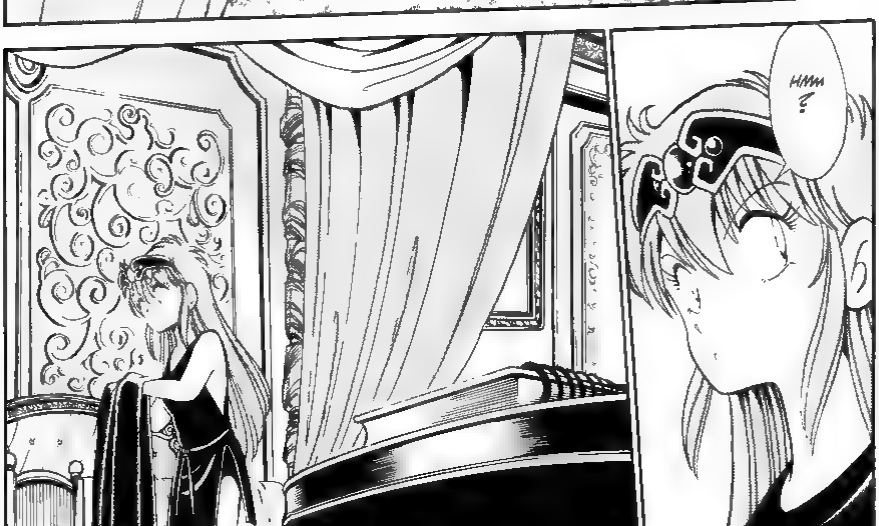
IT'S STILL BUT HALF COMPLETE--


--MY CURSE OF REVENGE.
THAT CURSE I CARVED INTO THIS CRYSTAL GLOBE SO MANY EONS AGO, CARVING TO THE MOMENT I DIED..


ONCE I HAVE SCRIBED THE FINAL RUNE--
--MY LOST POWER SHALL AGAIN BE MINE!


I BELIEVE I SHALL GO MEDITATE IN MY CHAMBERS.
SEE THAT I AM UNDISTURBED FOR THREE HOURS
YES, MY LADY!

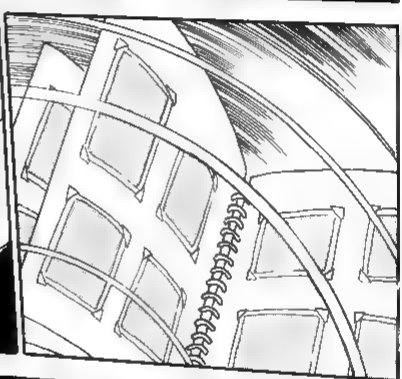


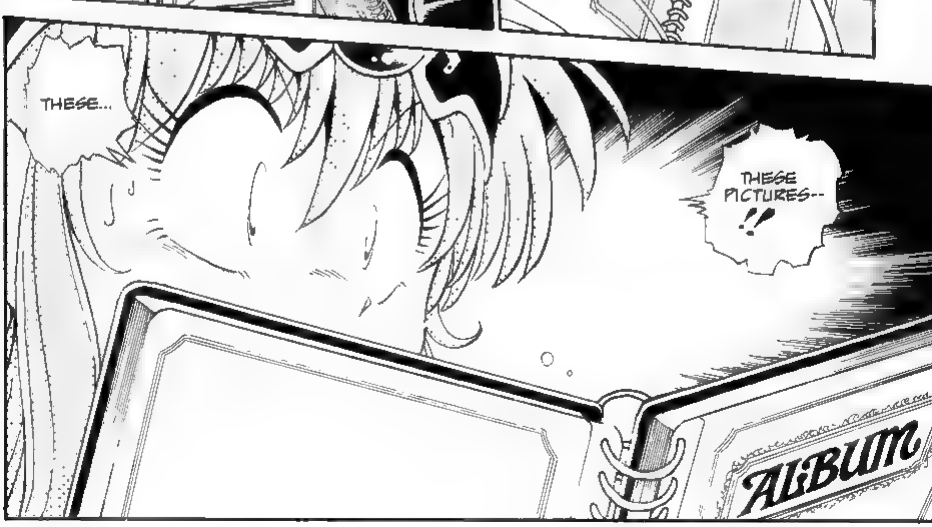

HMM?

ALBUM

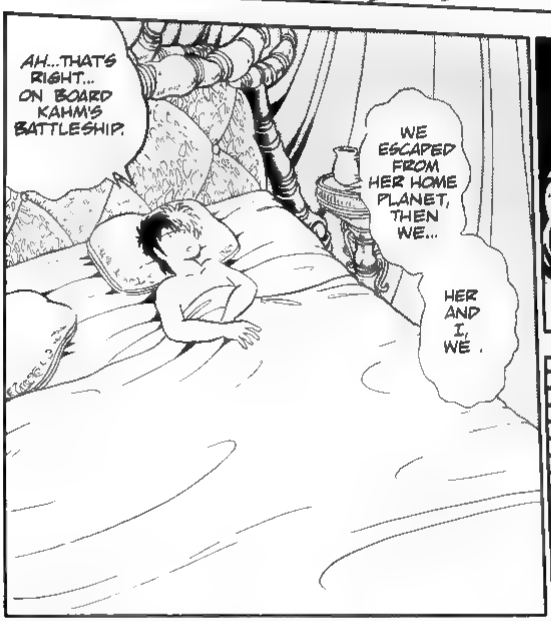
WHAT IS THIS ?
AND WHO COULD HAVE LEFT IT?

NO ONE IS SUPPOSED TO ENTER HERE...



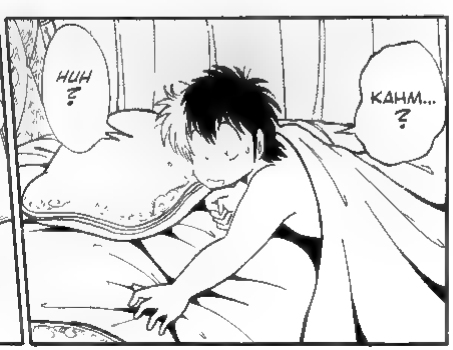

THESE...
THESE PICTURES--
!!
ALBUM

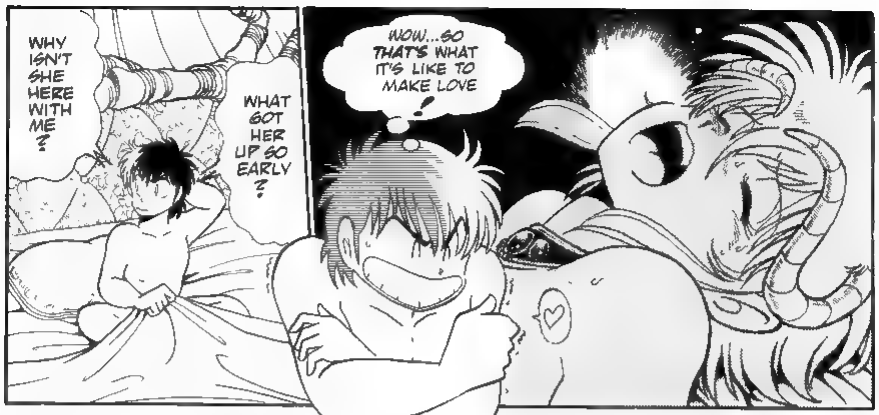
MMPH..
WHERE..?

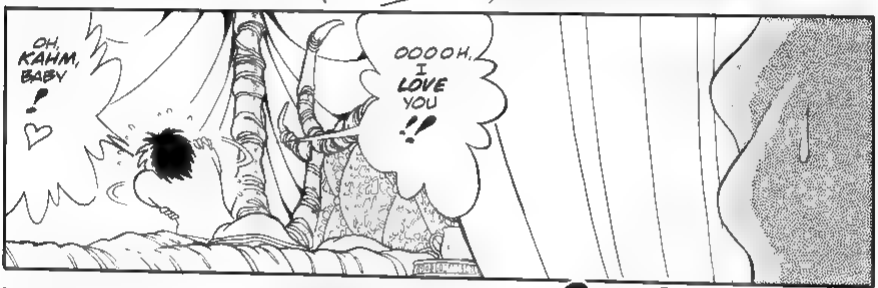

AH...THAT'S RIGHT... ON BOARD KAHM'S BATTLESHIP.
WE ESCAPED FROM HER HOME PLANET, THEN WE...
HER AND I, WE .

WE

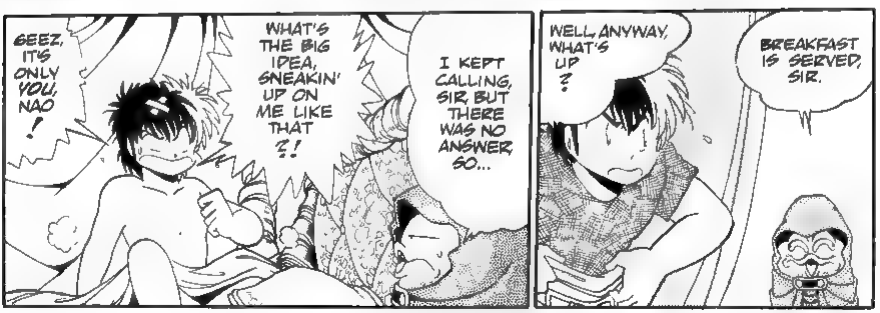
KAHM ! GOOOOD MORNING !

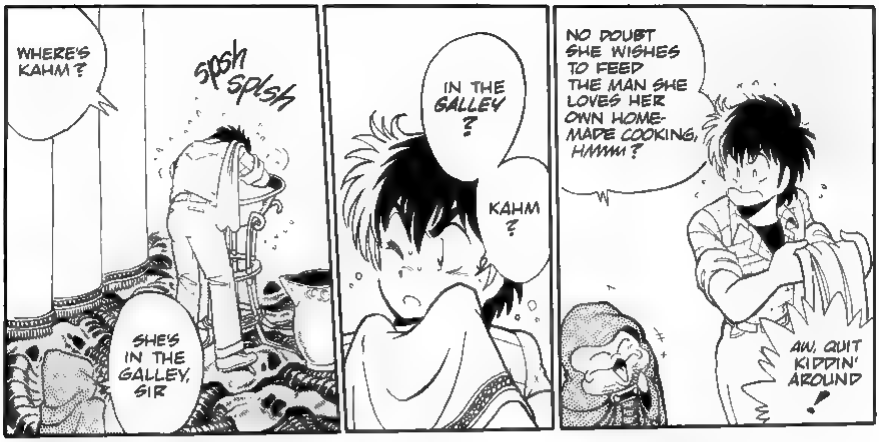

HUH ?
KAHM... ?


WHY ISN'T SHE HERE WITH ME ?
WHAT GOT HER UP SO EARLY ?
WOW...SO THAT'S WHAT IT'S LIKE TO MAKE LOVE !

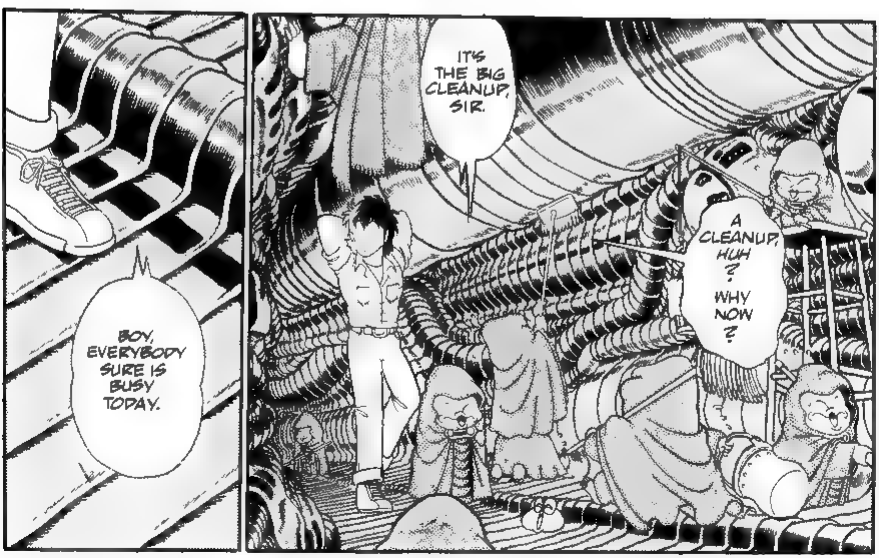

OH, KAHM, BABY !
OOOOH, I LOVE YOU !!

MR. TETSUYA... ?
YERK !
WHOO THUMP
WHOMP !

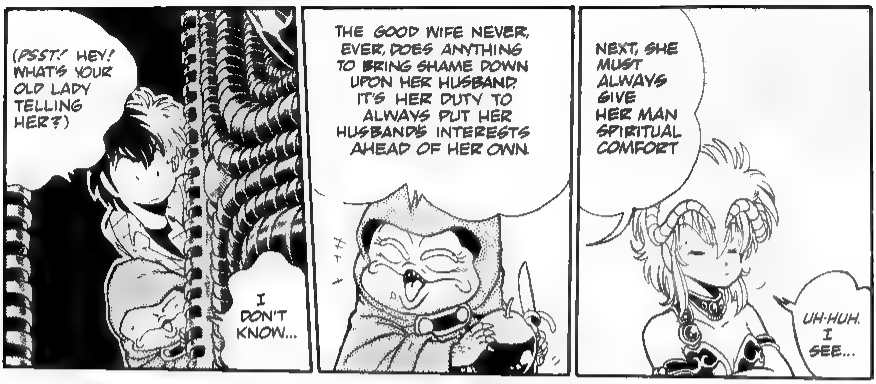

GEEZ, IT'S ONLY YOU, NAO !
WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA, SNEAKIN' UP ON ME LIKE THAT ?!
I KEPT CALLING, SIR, BUT THERE WAS NO ANSWER, SO...
WELL, ANYWAY, WHAT'S UP ?
BREAKFAST IS SERVED, SIR.


WHERE'S KAHM?
splsh splsh
SHE'S IN THE GALLEY, SIR
IN THE GALLEY?
KAHM?
NO DOUBT SHE WISHES TO FEED THE MAN SHE LOVES HER OWN HOME-MADE COOKING, HMMM?
AW, QUIT KIDDIN' AROUND!

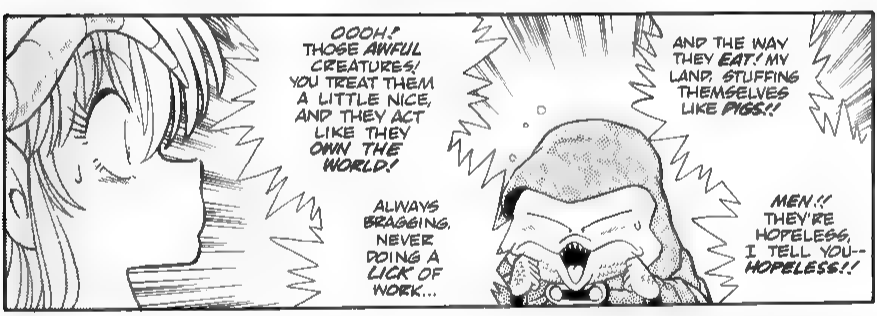
NOW NOW, MR TETSUYA!
WE KNOW ALL ABOUT IT, YOU STUD, YOU!
ATTA-BOY!
YAHA HAHA HAHA!!

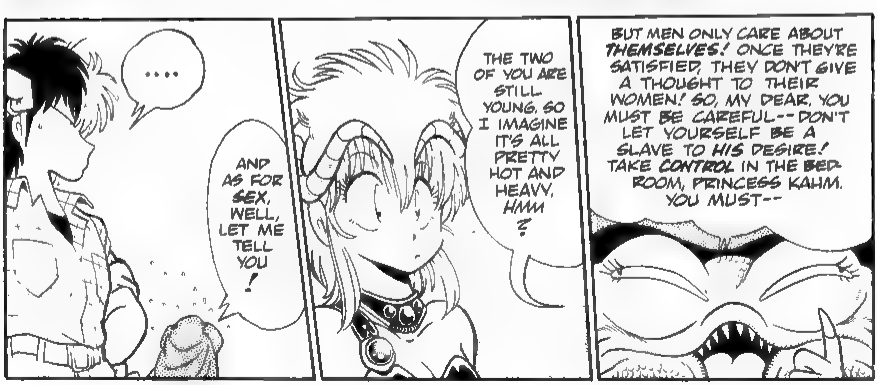

BOY, EVERYBODY SURE IS BUSY TODAY.
IT'S THE BIG CLEANUP, SIR.
A CLEANUP, HUH? WHY NOW?

COME ON, YOU LAZY DOGS! PUT YOUR BACKS INTO IT!
SOMEONE HELP ME POLISH THE CEILINGS!
MAKE WAY! MAKE WAY!
YOU TWO! HAVEN'T YOU DONE THE HEAD YET?
SEE. WHY DO WE ALWAYS GET THE CRAP WORK?!
WHAT?!
FOR OUR WEDDING?!?
YES, SIR. THAT'S WHY EVERYONE'S SO FRANTIC, YES INDEED.
THAT IDIOT! WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THAT NOW!
WHOA! WAIT FOR ME, SIR!
HMM.
IS BEING MARRIED REALLY LIKE THAT?
YOU'LL FIND OUT IN GOOD TIME, MY DEAR
BUT THERE ARE SOME THINGS A GOOD WIFE SHOULD NEVER FORGET..


(PSST! HEY! WHAT'S YOUR OLD LADY TELLING HER?)
I DON'T KNOW...
THE GOOD WIFE NEVER, EVER, DOES ANYTHING TO BRING SHAME DOWN UPON HER HUSBAND. IT'S HER DUTY TO ALWAYS PUT HER HUSBAND'S INTERESTS AHEAD OF HER OWN.
NEXT, SHE MUST ALWAYS GIVE HER MAN SPIRITUAL COMFORT
UH-HUH. I SEE...

BUT, PRINCESS DEAR.. ALL THAT'S JUST A BLIND!
IN FACT, YOU'VE GOT TO SQUEEZE THEM AND SQUEEZE THEM FOR ALL THEY'RE WORTH!


OOOH! THOSE AWFUL CREATURES! YOU TREAT THEM A LITTLE NICE, AND THEY ACT LIKE THEY OWN THE WORLD!
ALWAYS BRAGGING, NEVER DOING A LICK OF WORK...
AND THE WAY THEY EAT! MY LAND, STUFFING THEMSELVES LIKE PIGS!!
MEN!! THEY'RE HOPELESS, I TELL YOU-- HOPELESS!!


....
AND AS FOR SEX, WELL, LET ME TELL YOU!
THE TWO OF YOU ARE STILL YOUNG. SO I IMAGINE IT'S ALL PRETTY HOT AND HEAVY. HMM?
BUT MEN ONLY CARE ABOUT THEMSELVES! ONCE THEY'RE SATISFIED, THEY DON'T GIVE A THOUGHT TO THEIR WOMEN! SO, MY DEAR, YOU MUST BE CAREFUL-- DON'T LET YOURSELF BE A SLAVE TO HIS DESIRE! TAKE CONTROL IN THE BEDROOM, PRINCESS KAHM. YOU MUST--

JEEZ, NAO, LISTEN TO WHAT SHE'S SAYING TO KAHM!!
OH DEAR . OH MY. .
TETSUYA! YOU'RE UP!
OH DEAR
HEH HEH..
GEE, WHAT ARE YOU TWO TALKING ABOUT?
'MORNING, LOVER...
H-HEY! STOP THAT, KAHM! NOT HERE! EVERYONE'S WATCHING!
?
?
WHAT IN THE COSMOS?
MNRP!
THEY STUCK THEIR LIPS TOGETHER, BOSS!
YOU SUPPOSE IT'S SOME KIND OF EARTH GREETING?
OKAY, WE'LL TRY IT!
ME FIRST!
NOT WITH OTHER GUYS!

YOU'RE SERIOUS ABOUT THIS WEDDING STUFF, AREN'T YOU?

YOU BET! ♡ THE SOONER THE BETTER, DON'T YOU THINK?

LOOK, I KNOW YOU'RE SINGLE-MINDED ABOUT THIS, BUT GET REAL!

FIRST, WE'VE GOT TO FIND A WAY TO END THIS WAR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

HMPH!

WELL, ACTUALLY I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT THAT

TETSUYA, DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN STOP THE WAR?

UH.

WHA.. WHAT DO YOU MEAN..?

I MEAN, LIKE, I'M NOT MUCH FOR POLITICS, SO I CAN'T BE SURE, BUT--

--IF THIS WAR REALLY HINGES ON EARTH BEING THE SACRED PLANET, THE PLANET OUR FOREFATHERS CAME FROM..

. THEN IT CAN'T BE STOPPED. UH-UH, NO WAY.

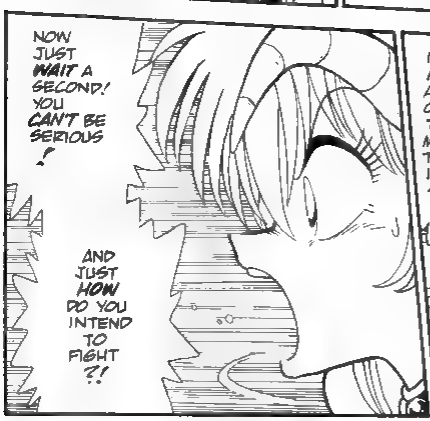
WHAT THE HELL?! NOW YOU TELL THIS?!!
YOU'RE THE GUYS RUNNING AROUND CALLING IT "THE SACRED PLANET," NOT US!
YOUR ANCESTORS BORN ON EARTH? COME OFF IT! WHAT A LOAD OF GARBAGE!!

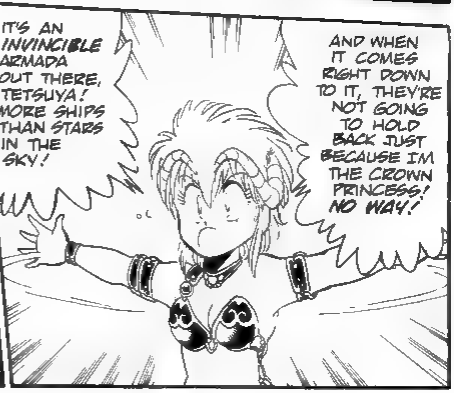
WELL, THAT'S WHAT OUR OLD TEACHINGS SAY, TETSUYA!
LONG, LONG AGO, OUR ANCESTORS SPRANG FORTH ON THE SACRED PLANET AND WENT OUT TO BUILD A GALACTIC EMPIRE!

THAT'S ALL THEY SAY? CAN'T YOU BE A LITTLE MORE SPECIFIC, MISS ROYAL HIGHNESS?!
Hee Hee... HISTORY WAS SUCH A BORE... I NEVER DID PAY MUCH ATTENTION!

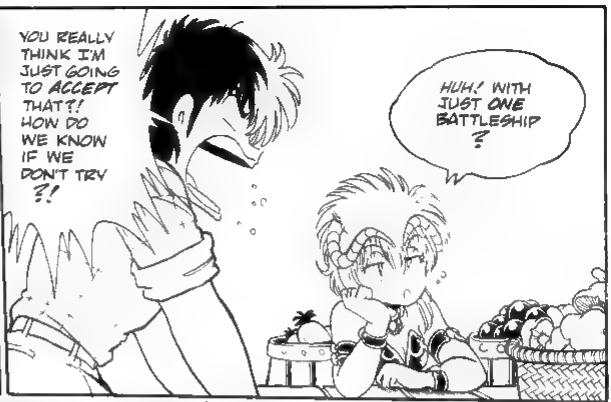
THIS IS JUST GREAT...

WELL, THEN. NOTHING TO DO BUT FIGHT


NOW JUST WAIT A SECOND! YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!
AND JUST HOW DO YOU INTEND TO FIGHT?!


IT'S AN INVINCIBLE ARMADA OUT THERE, TETSUYA! MORE SHIPS THAN STARS IN THE SKY!
AND WHEN IT COMES RIGHT DOWN TO IT, THEY'RE NOT GOING TO HOLD BACK JUST BECAUSE I'M THE CROWN PRINCESS! NO WAY!

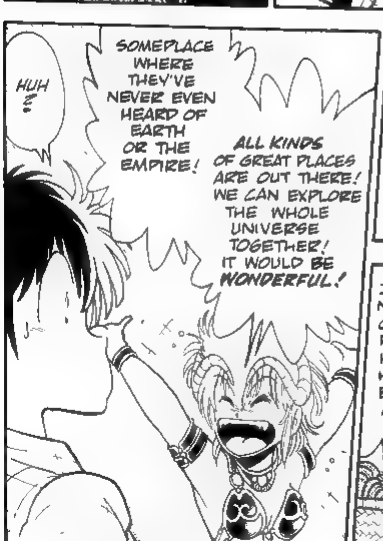
SORRY, BUT NO MATTER HOW YOU CUT IT, YOU GUYS ARE DOOMED!


YOU REALLY THINK I'M JUST GOING TO ACCEPT THAT?! HOW DO WE KNOW IF WE DON'T TRY?!
HUH! WITH JUST ONE BATTLESHIP?

IT WOULDN'T BE A BATTLE, MR TETSUYA IT WOULD BE A SLAUGHTER

....
....

LOOK, TETSUYA. WHY DON'T WE JUST LEAVE? SOMEWHERE FAR, FAR AWAY.


HUH?
SOMEPLACE WHERE THEY'VE NEVER EVEN HEARD OF EARTH OR THE EMPIRE!
ALL KINDS OF GREAT PLACES ARE OUT THERE! WE CAN EXPLORE THE WHOLE UNIVERSE TOGETHER! IT WOULD BE WONDERFUL!

KA--
KAHM.

I MEAN, NEITHER OF US REALLY HAVE A HOME TO GO BACK TO, ANYMORE
....
AND AS LONG AS WE HAVE THIS SHIP, WE'LL NEVER WANT FOR ANYTHING!
SO LET'S DO IT! OKAY?

YEAH. WELL, I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT THAT..

DYING IN A WAR YOU KNOW YOU CAN'T WIN... DYING LIKE A DOG...

EXACTLY! RIGHT WHEN YOU'VE GOT YOURSELF A HOT LITTLE CUTIE LIKE ME, TOO! WHAT A WASTE!

BUT, MY GOD, HOW THEY'LL HATE ME...

JUST ME, HAPPY AND ALIVE, WHIL■ EVERYONE ELSE...

"REMEMBER ONE THING, TETSUYA...

YOU'RE FROM EARTH!"

"THIS IS YOUR HOME!"

YES..

KAHM... I CAN'T.

TETSUYA!

DON'T ARGUE WITH ME! I JUST CAN'T!

BUT WHY, TETSUYA?!

BECAUSE.. BECAUSE REAL MEN DON'T CREEP AWAY IN THE NIGHT!

DAMN RIGHT!! A MAN NEVER RUNS, NO MATTER WHAT DESTINY SENDS HIS WAY!!

THERE COMES A TIME WHEN YOU MUST CHALLENGE THE IMPOSSIBLE !!

OOOOH! TETSUYA, THAT WAS GREAT !

EH, HEH... REALLY ?

BEHOLD THE NEXT EMPEROR !

HURRAH!

HURRAH!

AUTOGRAPH, PLEASE!

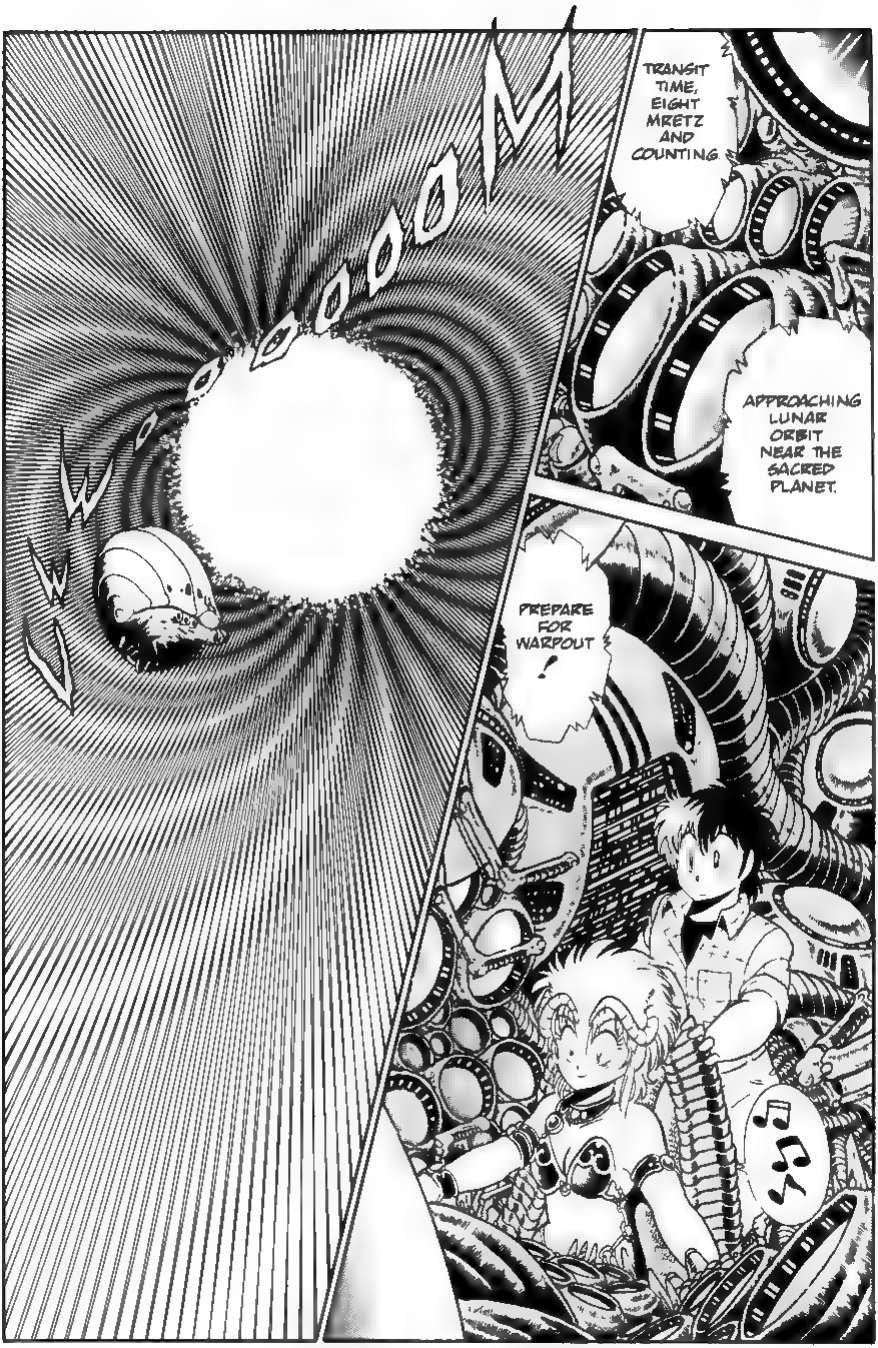
ANYWAY, I'VE MADE UP MY MIND. KAHM, I'M GOING BACK TO EARTH! I'LL DO WHAT I CAN, HOWEVER I CAN !

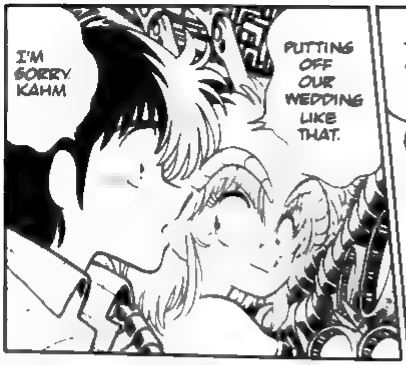
OH, WOW... !

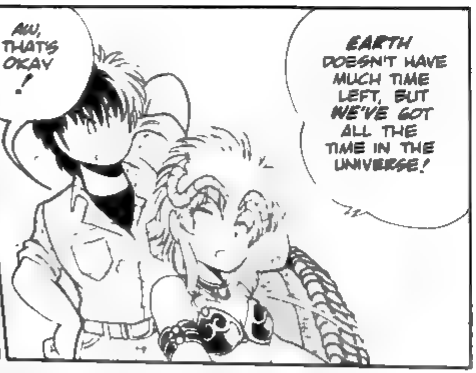
MY TETSUYA. TALKING LIKE A MAN-- FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER! ♡

EASY TO MAKE HER HAPPY !

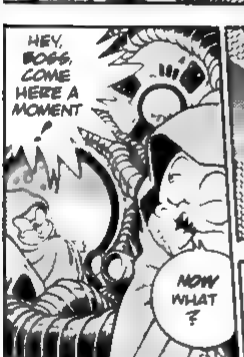
I'VE FALLEN IN LOVE ALL OVER AGAIN !!


TRANSIT TIME, EIGHT MRETZ AND COUNTING
APPROACHING LUNAR ORBIT NEAR THE SACRED PLANET.
PREPARE FOR WARPOUT !
WOOOOM


I'M SORRY KAHM
PUTTING OFF OUR WEDDING LIKE THAT.


AW, THAT'S OKAY!
EARTH DOESN'T HAVE MUCH TIME LEFT, BUT WE'VE GOT ALL THE TIME IN THE UNIVERSE!

APPROACHING WARPOUT WINDOW!
WELL, BETTER SLOW DOWN A BIT...


HEY, BOSS, COME HERE A MOMENT!
NOW WHAT?

OH, NO!!

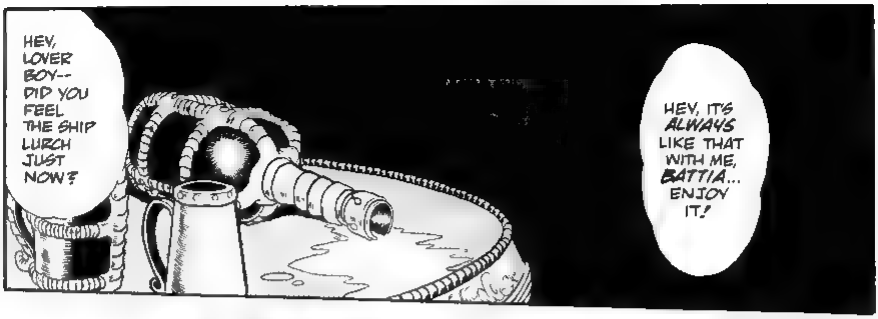
WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE THAT BLIP MEANS?
DON'T ASK ME! YOU'RE THE--

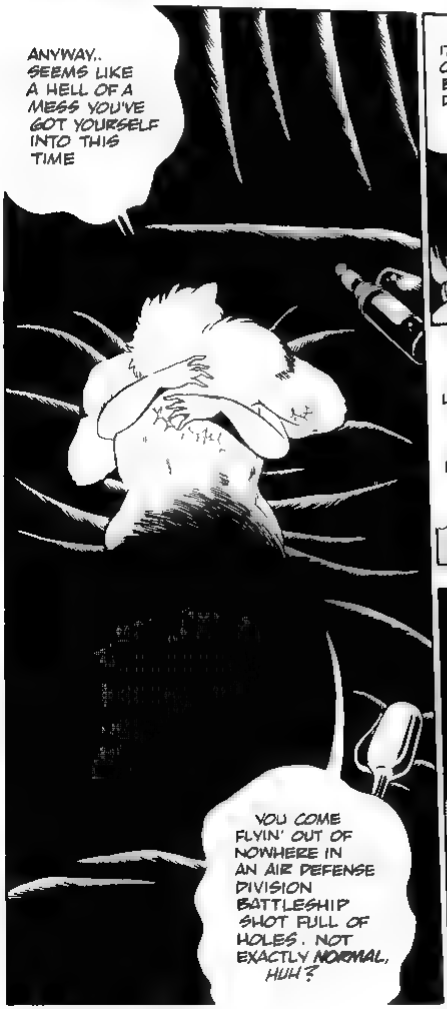
PRINCESS KAHM! THERE'S A GIANT OBJECT DIRECTLY IN OUR WARPOUT WINDOW!

TOO LATE!
EMERGENCY DECELERATION!

IT'S NO GOOD! WE'RE BREACHING REAL-SPACE!
WN
WN
OOOH! STOP! STOP, I SAID!!
WHKROOM!!

HNRK...


HEY, LOVER BOY-- DID YOU FEEL THE SHIP LURCH JUST NOW?
HEY, IT'S ALWAYS LIKE THAT WITH ME, BATTIA... ENJOY IT!


ANYWAY.. SEEMS LIKE A HELL OF A MESS YOU'VE GOT YOURSELF INTO THIS TIME
YOU COME FLYIN' OUT OF NOWHERE IN AN AIR DEFENSE DIVISION BATTLESHIP SHOT FULL OF HOLES. NOT EXACTLY NORMAL, HUH?

IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS, DEAR.
NOW, THAT AIN'T FAIR, GIRL!

I'M LETTIN' YOU HIDE OUT HERE...
FIGURE I'VE GOT A RIGHT TO KNOW.

PRI- PRINCESS KAHM !!
YOU CAN'T-- WAIT--
SHUT UP !!
!

GEOBALDI!!
WHAT THE HELL WERE YOU DOING HERE?! NOW MY SHIP IS--
KAHM!
BATTIA..
ULK!
BATTIA. IT'S REALLY YOU!
THANK THE GODS YOU GOT AWAY SAFELY!!
AND YOU TOO, KAHM!
DIDN'T TAKE YOU LONG TO JUMP INTO BED..
EH, HEH. WELL. YOU KNOW WHAT HE'S LIKE.

ENSIGN GARI! WHAT THE HELL..?
SORRY, BOSS! WE'VE HAD A COLLISION...
PRINCESS KAHM'S SHIP IS BURIED IN OUR STARBOARD PLATES, SIR.
HMM?
GULP!

WHO THE HELL ARE YOU? I'VE NEVER SEEN A GETUP LIKE THAT BEFORE!
R-REALLY? WELL, I--ER--HEH, HEH..

LAY OFF, GEOBALD!
THAT'S KAHM'S FIANCÉ, SO DON'T GIVE HIM A HARD TIME.
WHAT?!

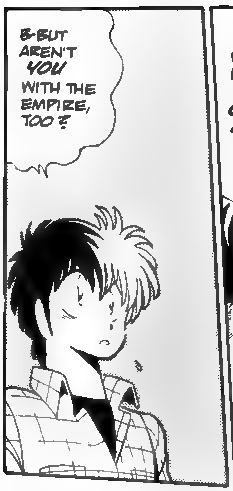
THIS LITTLE CREEP..?!
Y-YEAH, WELL, SORTA.

RAAATTIA! YOU'RE EMBARRASSING ME!!
AH HAH! I THOUGHT SO, YOU LITTLE STUD YOU!
HA HA

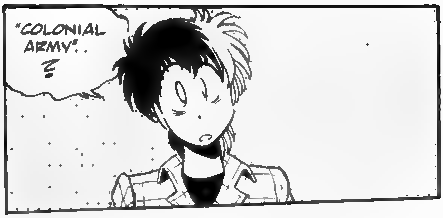
"SORT OF"...?
C'MON, YOU RASCAL! HOW IS SHE, HMM? SLEPT WITH HER, DIDN'T YOU, EH? EH?
ER..

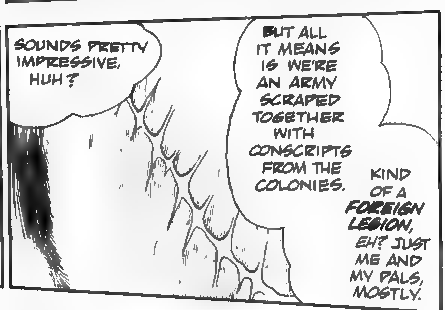
EXCUSE ME, MY LADY, BUT JUST WHAT BRINGS YOU TO THIS QUADRANT?
I MUST WARN YOU THAT THIS IS A WAR ZONE HARDLY APPROPRIATE FOR A HONEYMOON.

YOU ELOPED ?!?
I'LL BE DAMNED.
DON'T SAY "ELOPED"! CAN'T YOU BE MORE ROMANTIC?! "A FLIGHT OF LOVE IN THE NIGHT", OR SOMETHING..
GEEZ, WHAT'S THE DIFF?
GODS ALOFT. THERE'S NEVER BEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS IN THE HISTORY OF THE EMPIRE!
YEAH, GUESS THAT'S PRETTY MUCH TRUE..
WONDERFUL! GLAD TO BE A PART OF HISTORY!
HRMMM.. NOW I SEE I SUPPOSE YOU HAD SOMETHIN' TO DO WITH ALL THIS, EH, BATTIA?
YOU GOT IT!
HAW! MORE TO YOU THAN MEETS THE EYE, SHRIMP!
NOT MANY BUGGERS OUT THERE'D TAKE OFF WITH THE EMPEROR'S OWN DAUGHTER!!
AW, IT WAS N-NOTHING..
YEAH.. AND BLOWING AWAY SOME OF THE EMPEROR'S NAVY TO GET HERE, TOO!
HAW HAW HAW
BY GOD, I'D HAVE PAID A PRETTY PENNY TO SEE THE LOOK ON THEIR STUPID FACES!


B-BUT AREN'T YOU WITH THE EMPIRE, TOO?

WELL, BOY.. US, WE'RE THE EMPIRE'S COLONIAL ARMY, SEE?


"COLONIAL ARMY"..
?

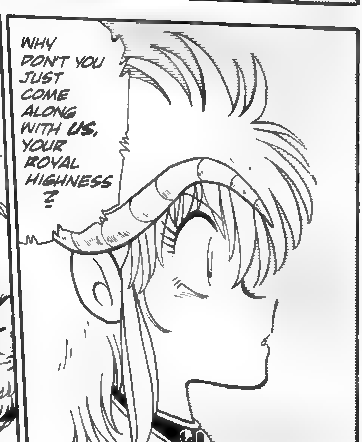

SOUNDS PRETTY IMPRESSIVE, HUH?
BUT ALL IT MEANS IS WE'RE AN ARMY SCRAPED TOGETHER WITH CONSCRIPTS FROM THE COLONIES.
KIND OF A FOREIGN LEGION, EH? JUST ME AND MY PALS, MOSTLY.

BOSS, YOU REALLY THINK WE SHOULD GET OURSELVES INVOLVED IN THIS? IT COULD GET PRETTY MESSY...
FORGET IT!

FIRST, NOBODY'S ASKED US TO ARREST THESE GUYS.
SECOND, NO REASON TO KISS THE EMPEROR'S ASS MOREN WE HAVE TO!

(GEE, LOOKS LIKE THINGS ARE GOING PRETTY GOOD, HUH?)
(AFTER WE CRASHED INTO THE SHIP, I THOUGHT WE WERE IN IT DEEP...)
(YEAH, ME TOO...)

YOU'RE SHARPER THAN I THOUGHT, GEOBALDI!
YEAH, WELL...


WHY DON'T YOU JUST COME ALONG WITH US, YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS?

MARUDA GIRE!!
REALLY, PRINCESS, THIS IS QUITE TIRESOME.
WHY DO YOU INSIST ON CAUSING ALL THIS TROUBLE?
THIS IS NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS! OFF WITH YOU!
NOT THIS TIME, KAHM!!
I HAVE BEEN AUTHORIZED BY THE IMPERIAL PLANET TO TAKE YOU INTO CUSTODY!
BY WHATEVER MEANS NECESSARY!
AND..

BATTIA BUREITIN ROU! YOU ARE UNDER ARREST FOR HIGH TREASON AGAINST THE EMPIRE!
HOLD ON THERE, PRIEST! THIS IS MY SHIP, DAMN YOUR EYES! I WON'T LET YOU--
SILENCE, YOU DEGENERATE! I HAVE NO INTENTION OF TAKING ORDERS FROM SUCH AS YOU!
WHY, YOU--!!
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THE SPECIAL PRIVILEGES OF THE THEOLOGICAL COUNCIL?
TO MONITOR THE ACTIVITIES OF MILITARY OFFICERS.. AND, IN TIMES OF CRISIS, TO PURGE AND DISMISS!
IT WAS A MISTAKE FROM THE FIRST TO HAVE ASSIGNED SUCH AN IMPORTANT MISSION TO ONE OF INFERIOR CASTE.
THIS MISTAKE HAS BEEN RECTIFIED.. A NEW FLEET IS COMING TO TAKE YOUR PLACE AT THE FRONT.
WHAT?!
TAKE YOURSELF AND YOUR MISERABLE RABBLE AND GET OUT!
BASTARD!!

FOOL!!
HRK!

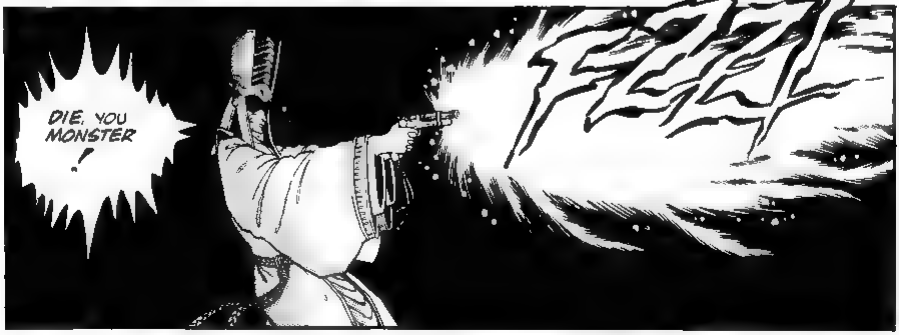
GEOBALDI !!
BOSS !!

GEOBALDI!!
SPEAK TO ME!
PLEASE!
BOSS!!
DAMMIT, GEOBALDI, DON'T YOU DARE DIE ON ME!
YOU BASTARD.
YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS!
DAMN IT...!

GET UP!
I SAID GET UP!!
DARLING, PLEASE!
HEH.. ALMOST TOO EASY.
WHILE WE'RE AT IT, MEN, KILL THE WOMAN AS WELL
YES, SIR!
YOU WILL NOT!!
BATTIA'S MY BEST FRIEND!
IT'S YOU GUYS WHO ARE THE REAL TRAITORS! I'LL HAVE THE LOT OF YOU PUT TO DEATH!
SORRY, PRINCESS, BUT IT IS CLEAR THAT YOU ARE DISORIENTED AND CONFUSED.
I'M AFRAID YOU NO LONGER HAVE THE POWER TO ISSUE ORDERS, YOUR HIGHNESS.
WHAT?!
HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY HAS INVESTED ME WITH THE AUTHORITY TO APPREHEND YOU ON CHARGES OF TREASON. UNFORTUNATELY, I MUST BRING YOU IN, PRINCESS.
HEY, PRIEST!!

YOU . YOU
YOU SHOULD BE DEAD !!

I UNDERESTIMATED YOU
I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D HAVE THE GUTS TO PULL THE TRIGGER, MARUDA


DIE, YOU MONSTER !

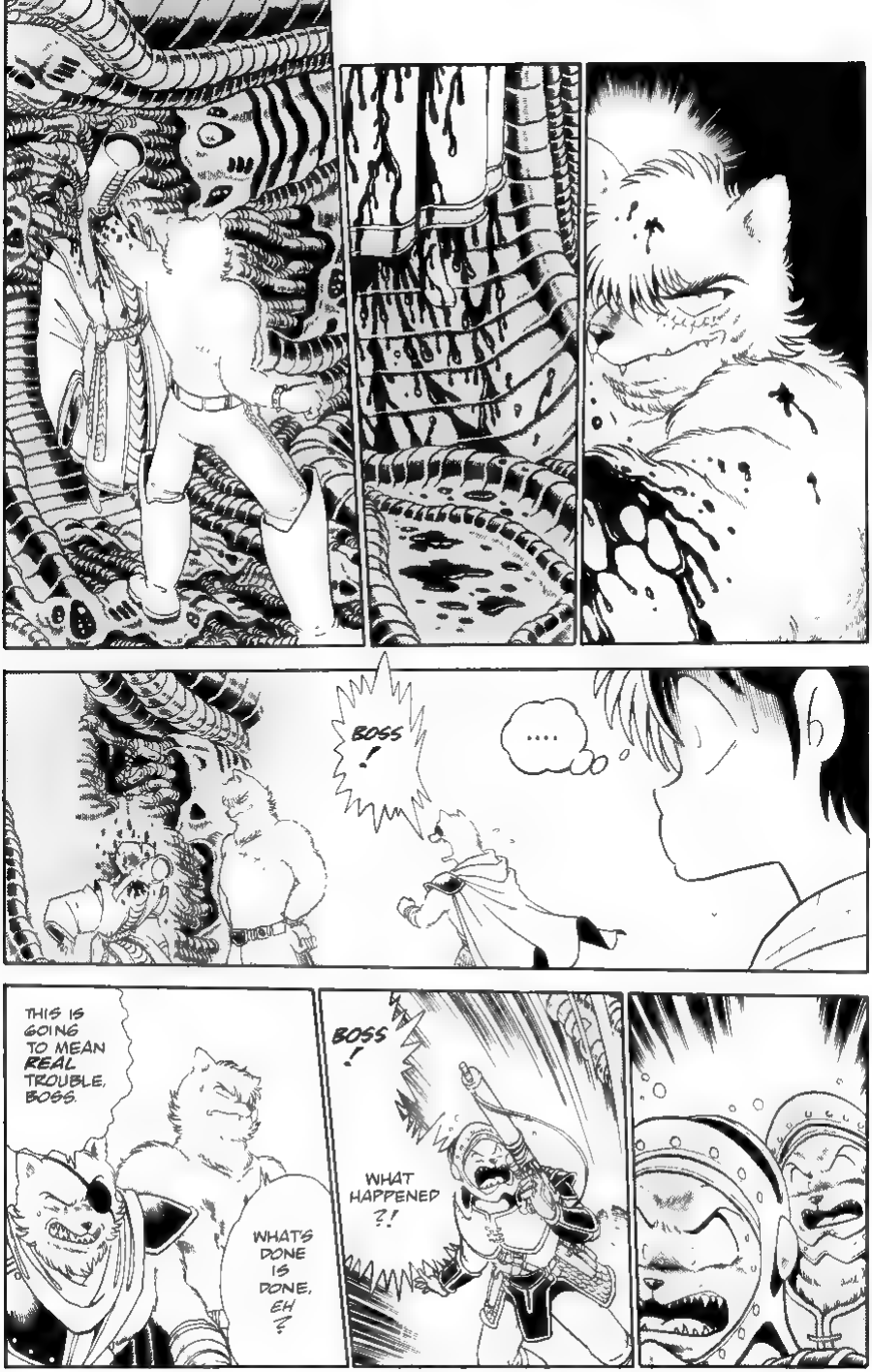
SPAK
WHA--
WHAT THE ?!
SORRY, PRIEST--
--THAT PEASHOOTER'S NOT GONNA DO YOU ANY GOOD NOW!
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR ?!
SHOOT HIM!
SHOOT HIM !!
DIE!!
AAA!
FZZK

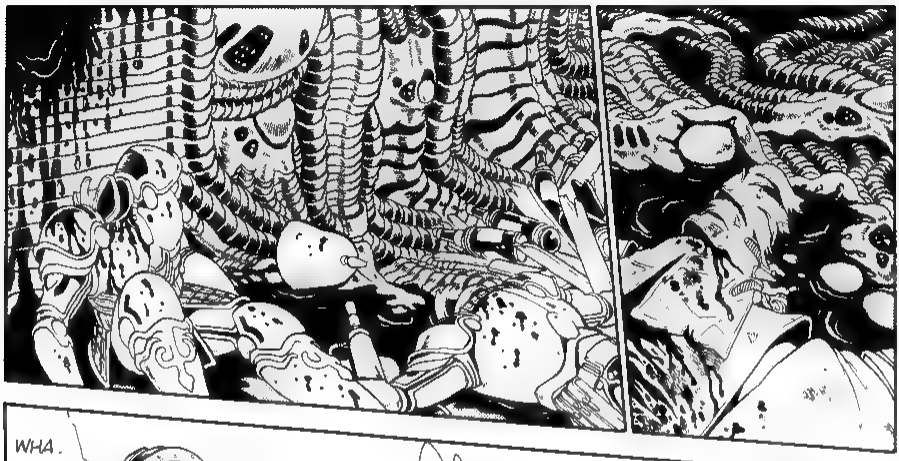
SKREEK
AIEEE!!

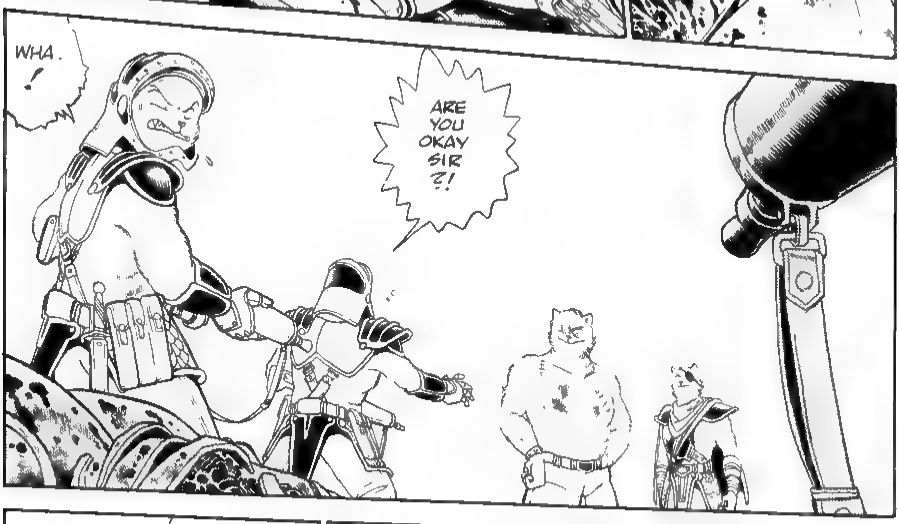
WHOOM
AAAH!!

N-NO . WAIT .. !
I I WAS MISTAKEN !
PLEASE! I BEG YOU FORGIVE ME!
I'LL CANCEL MY REQUEST TO THE IMPERIAL PLANET FOR A NEW FLEET!
I'LL SAY I MISJUDGED THE SITUATION! YOU WON'T BE BLAMED FOR ANYTHING!
GEOBALDI, DON'T!
DON'T DON'T YOU REALIZE WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO YOU IF YOU KILL AN EMISSARY OF THE EMPEROR ?!
HHLK
N-NO I BEG YOU !
HELP, SOMEBODY, HELP !

PRINCESS KAHM!! HELP ME !!
YOU GOT YOURSELF INTO IT, YOU GET YOURSELF OUT!
HEL--
AIEEE!!
SPLAKK

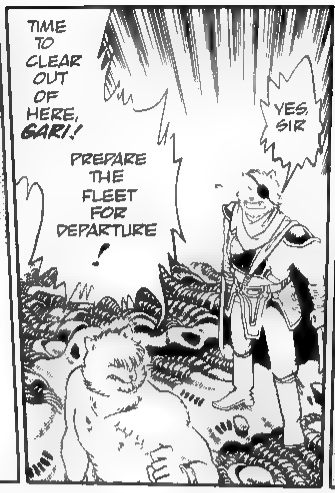

BOSS!
....
THIS IS GOING TO MEAN REAL TROUBLE, BOSS.
WHAT'S DONE IS DONE, EH?
BOSS!
WHAT HAPPENED?!

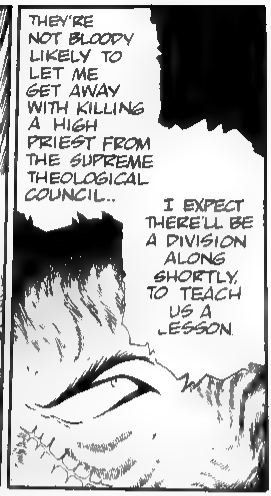



WHA.
!
ARE YOU OKAY SIR ?!

CLEAN UP THAT MESS AND EJECT IT WITH THE REST OF THE GARBAGE !
DARLING, ARE YOU REALLY ALL RIGHT ?
YOU'RE STILL BLEEDING.
OH, HO! WHAT'S THIS ? WORRIED, IS SHE ? ABOUT ME, EH ?
HAH ! NOT LIKELY !

MAN, HE REALLY IS A MONSTER!
HE'S TOUGH, ALL RIGHT!

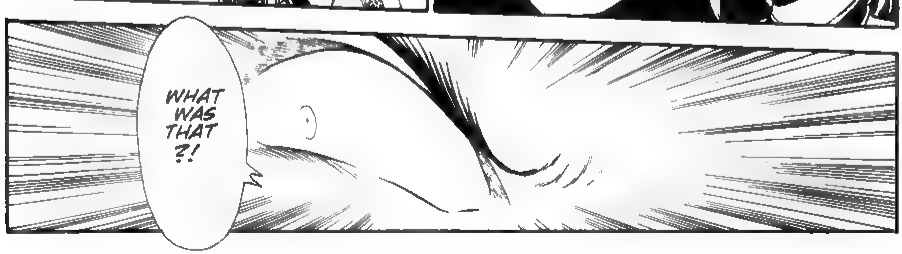

TIME TO CLEAR OUT OF HERE, GARI!
PREPARE THE FLEET FOR DEPARTURE!
YES, SIR


THEY'RE NOT BLOODY LIKELY TO LET ME GET AWAY WITH KILLING A HIGH PRIEST FROM THE SUPREME THEOLOGICAL COUNCIL..
I EXPECT THERE'LL BE A DIVISION ALONG SHORTLY, TO TEACH US A LESSON

I WANT US OUT OF HERE THE SECOND THE FLEET IS READY!
PLOT US SOME WARP COORDINATES! I DON'T GIVE A DAMN WHERE--
--AS LONG AS THEY'RE AS FAR FROM HERE AS POSSIBLE!

YOU'LL BE COMING WITH US, OF COURSE, EH, BATTIA!
HMPH! DO I HAVE A CHOICE?

SO RUNNING AWAY, HMM?
WITH YOUR TAIL BETWEEN YOUR LEGS!


WHAT WAS THAT?!

WHAT THE HELL DID YOU JUST SAY?
I SAID, "ARE YOU RUNNING AWAY WITH YOUR TAIL BETWEEN YOUR LEGS?"!
WHY...
WHY, YOU LITTLE--
ISN'T THIS YOUR CHANCE TO PAY BACK THE EMPIRE FOR TREATING YOU COLONIALS LIKE DOGS?
OR DOES THE BIG, BAD OL' IMPERIAL ARMY HAVE YOU PEEING IN YOUR PANTS..?
ER KAHM.
(IT'S OKAY, TETSUYA I'VE GOT A PLAN.)
(I SURE HOPE SO.)
HEY, LITTLE GIRL-- THINK BEFORE YOU OPEN YOUR MOUTH!
YOU MAY BE THE NEXT EMPRESS, BUT THERE'S STILL SOME THINGS YOU BETTER NOT SAY!
YOU THINK WE GIVE A DAMN ABOUT YOUR ARMY?
ANYTIME, ANYPLACE... THEY'RE MINE, IF I FEEL LIKE IT!

WELL THEN, HOW ABOUT IT?! JOIN UP WITH US!

HUH? WHAT THE HELL?

TETSUYA AND I ARE TAKING ON THE EMPIRE--

--AND EVERYONE ELSE HERE HAS THE IMPERIAL ARMY ON THEIR TAIL ANYWAY.

SO YOU WANT US TO WORK TOGETHER, HMM?!

WELL, LET'S FACE IT-- WHERE WILL YOU GO IF YOU JUST RUN AWAY?!

THE SANTOVASKU ARMY BELIEVES IN IRON DISCIPLINE.. EVENTUALLY THEY'LL CATCH YOU ANYWAY!

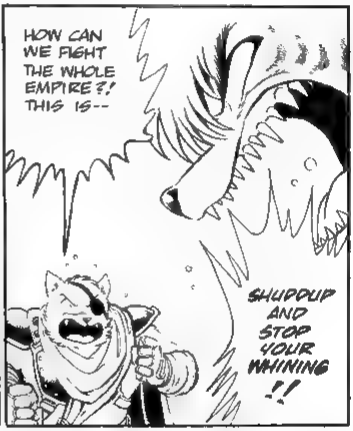
YOU OUGHT TO REALIZE THAT!

....
....

TAKE ON THE WHOLE EMPIRE ?!
BY THE GODS.. WE'LL DO IT!!

SOUNDS LIKE MY KIND OF ACTION !
GREAT !

BOSS!! ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND ?!


HOW CAN WE FIGHT THE WHOLE EMPIRE ?! THIS IS--
SHUDDUP AND STOP YOUR WHINING !!

STUBBORN BASTARD! BATTIA, YOU SAY SOMETHING TO HIM !
WELL, I DON'T MUCH FEEL LIKE GROWING OLD ON THE RUN, EITHER...

THIS IS GREAT!! WITH BOTH OF YOU HELPING US, AT LEAST WE HAVE A CHANCE !

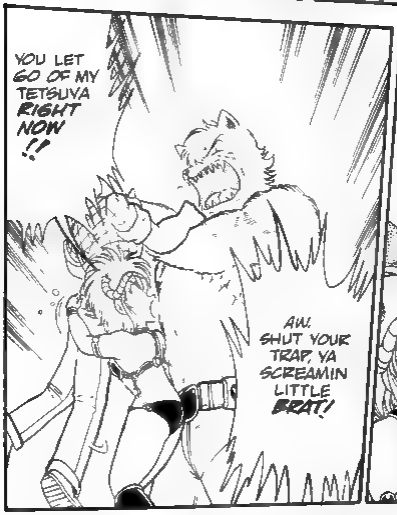
YEAH, WELL I'VE GOT A GRUDGE OR TWO AGAINST THE EMPIRE MYSELF
TIME FOR REVENGE, HMMM ?

DAMMIT, BATTIA !
I'VE BEEN IN A BATTLE OR TWO, SAR!! AND I'VE LEARNED A FEW TRICKS IN THAT TIME, EH ?!

WE'LL USE THIS "SACRED PLANET" OF THEIRS AS A SHIELD..!
AH, HA! NOW I GET IT, BOSS!
RIGHT? IF WE HOLE UP DOWN THERE, THE STINKIN' EMPIRE'LL BE AFRAID TO TOUCH US!
BEATS THE HELL OUTA ME, BUT THEY SEEM TO THINK THAT PLANET'S PRETTY SPECIAL.
SO IF THEY COME AFTER US, WE JUST THREATEN TO BLAST THE WHOLE DAMN PLANET!
WE'LL HAVE THE EMPIRE BY THE--
FORGET IT!!!
TET TETSUYA!
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU, LOUDMOUTH?!
YOU GOT SOME KINDA PROBLEM?!
YOU BETTER BELIEVE IT!
YOU WANT TO USE THE EARTH AS A SHIELD?! THERE ARE PEOPLE ON THAT PLANET!
I'LL BE DAMNED IF I LET YOU USE THEM AS HOSTAGES!

!

THAT'S RIGHT! YOU GUYS ARE THE "INVADERS" THAT THEY FIGURE FOULED UP THEIR SACRED PLANET!
I CAN'T BELIEVE THE IMPERIAL ARMY HAD TROUBLE WITH YOU CRITTERS-- WHAT A JOKE!
LET GO OF ME !!


YOU LET GO OF MY TETSUYA RIGHT NOW !!
AW, SHUT YOUR TRAP, YA SCREAMIN LITTLE BRAT!

YOU BETTER GET IT STRAIGHT, GIRL-- THERE AIN'T NO PRINCESSES HERE ANYMORE! THE STRONGEST RULES!
RRG...

I'M GONNA DO THINGS MY WAY, AND YOU'LL TAKE IT AND LIKE IT!

OH, YEAH?! SCREW YOU, PAL! WHO SAYS YOU'RE THE STRONGEST GUY HERE?!

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKIN' ABOUT?! YOU FIGURE YOU CAN BEAT ME ?!
NEVER KNOW TILL YOU TRY, HUH?

!
WHOULF!

YOU, EH?
HEH, WHY THE HELL NOT!

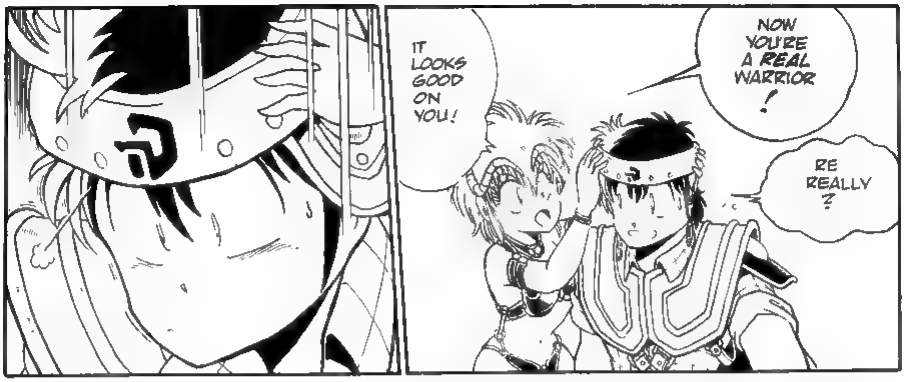
ALL RIGHT, KID I'LL TAKE YOU ON!
WE'LL FIND OUT WHO'S FIT TO BE GENERAL WITH A LITTLE DUEL!
WELL? WHAT DO YOU SAY?

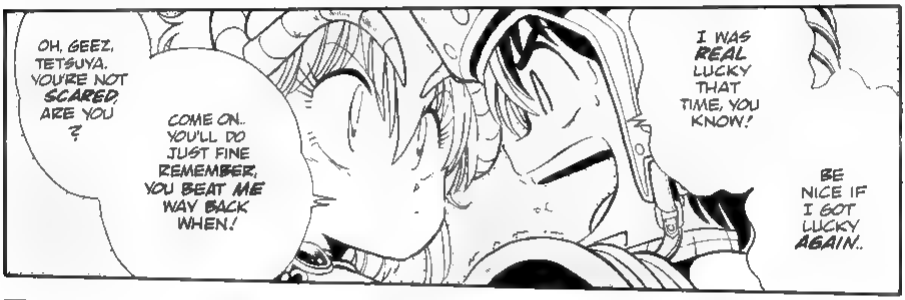
YOU... YOU GOT IT!

GARI! YOU HEARD HIM!
HURRAH!
CLEAR THE HANGAR DECK FOR A DUEL! MAKE IT SNAPPY!

A DUEL! A DUEL!
THE BOSS VERSUS THAT KID!
....
TETSUYA..

MR TETSUYA . IT MIGHT BE A GOOD IDEA TO GIVE THIS UP
IT'S GOING TO HURT WHEN HE CUTS YOU TO BITS
JUST SHUT UP. WILL YA? YOU THINK I CAN BACK DOWN NOW?!


IT LOOKS GOOD ON YOU!
NOW YOU'RE A REAL WARRIOR!
RE REALLY?

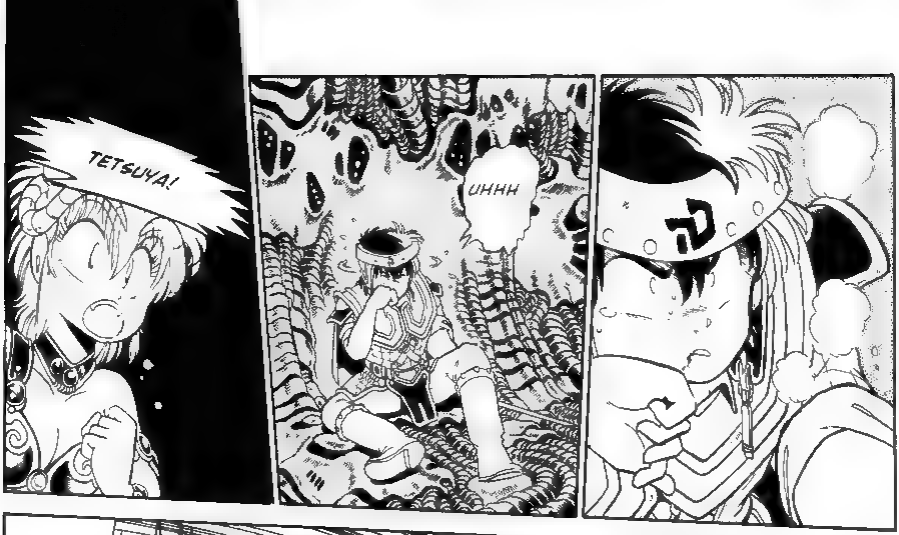

OH, GEEZ, TETSUYA. YOU'RE NOT SCARED, ARE YOU?
COME ON.. YOU'LL DO JUST FINE REMEMBER, YOU BEAT ME WAY BACK WHEN!
I WAS REAL LUCKY THAT TIME, YOU KNOW!
BE NICE IF I GOT LUCKY AGAIN..

HEY, YOU FINISHED WITH YOUR GOODBYES?
LET'S GET THIS SHOW ON THE ROAD!
READY WHEN YOU ARE! BUT DON'T YOU FORGET--
--IF I BEAT YOU, WE'LL DEFEND THE EARTH TOGETHER!
WE FIGHT UNTIL ONE OF US CAN FIGHT NO MORE...
AND DON'T WORRY-- IF YOU WIN, I'LL KEEP MY PROMISE.

DAMN IT ANYWAY I'M PAST CARING NOW! LET THAT S.O.B KILL ME IF HE CAN!

YAAAAAH!
KRANGG
FWIMP

WHOOSH
SO.
RYAAAA!
WHDD
IF YOU TALK BIG--
WHILK!
KRAK
--YOU GOTTA BE PREPARED--
--FOR THE CONSEQUENCES !!


TETSUYA!
UHHH

HAW, HAW!
HEY, WHAT'S WRONG, KID ?!
TAKE HIM OUT, BOSS!

HURRAH! HURRAH!
GO, GO, TETSUYA!
GO, GO TETSUYA!

THIS IS JUST THE BEGINNING, KID.
SO COME ON!!
HAH!

URRHK!
HYAH!
WHSSH
KANG
SHANGG
KANG
KRANGG
OH.
OH, NO.

hahh
hahh
hahh
WHAT'S WRONG, EH? WHERE'S ALL YOUR FIGHT GONE?
GETTING COLD FEET, KID?
SH-- SHUT UP!
I CAN'T STAND IT ANYMORE!
TETSUYA, STOP!
YOU'LL BE KILLED!
PRINCESS!
KAHH!

YOU KEEP OUT OF THIS !!
BATTIA.

HOW... HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT?
I'M JUST SUPPOSED TO LET HIM DIE?!
HE'S GOING TO BE KILLED !

TETSUYA'S FIGHTING FOR WHAT HE BELIEVES IN, KAHM!
WHEN HER MAN LAYS HIS LIFE ON THE LINE FOR HIS BELIEFS, A WOMAN KEEPS HER MOUTH SHUT!
YOU MUST BELIEVE IN HIM, KAHM !

SHE SHE'S RIGHT, KAHM !
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME!

OH TETSUYA PLEASE DON'T DIE !

NOT LIKELY WATCH THIS !
HRMM AT LEAST YOU CAN STILL MOVE YOUR MOUTH-- I'M IMPRESSED !

WHILE YOU CAN STILL TALK, YOU MIGHT TRY THINKIN' UP SOME PRETTY APOLOGY!
IF IT'S GOOD ENOUGH--
--I MIGHT LET YOU LIVE!!
NEVER!!
KRASH
HYAH!
KANG
KANGG
WHA--
WHSSH
THAT'S IT! THAT'S THE WAY!! GET HIM, TETSUYA!

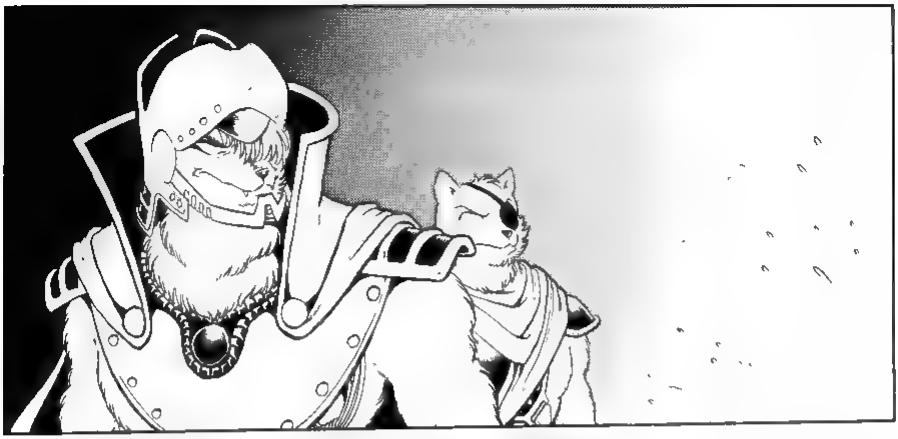
SON OF A BITCH!
WHSST
LISTEN TO YOUR COMMON SENSE, BOY, NOT YOUR CHEERLEADERS!!
RYAAA!!
KRAK
HLKK!
OW!
AHG!
OW!
WHDD
KRAK
GOD DAMN IT!!
JUST GIVE UP, BOY!!
YOU CAN'T WIN!!
DO YOU REALLY WANT TO DIE?!

SHUT UP AND FIGHT!
FOOL!
KCHOK

DAMN
DAMN IT ALL!
FOO

!!
WHMP
....

TET
TETSUYA
COME ON, TETSUYA!
OPEN YOUR EYES!!
TETSUYAAA!
MR TETSUYA!
WAAHH!!
NO
NO



CONGRATULATIONS, SIR. A SPLENDID VICTORY!
....

OF COURSE, WE KNEW HOW IT WOULD GO FROM THE BEGINNING..
HE WASN'T HALF AS TOUGH AS HE TALKED!

HE MUST HAVE KNOWN IT WOULD TURN OUT THIS WAY

BOGS ?
HE MUST HAVE KNOWN THAT I WAS TOO STRONG FOR HIM... FAR TOO STRONG!

STILL, HE NEVER GAVE AN INCH, KNOWING ALL THE WHILE HE COULD NEVER WIN. HE TRIED DESPERATELY TO CHANGE HIS OWN DESTINY ..

AND THEN, AT THAT MOMENT WHEN HE HAD THE TIP OF HIS SWORD AT MY THROAT--

--IF HE'D HAD EVEN A WHISPER OF STRENGTH LEFT IN HIS BODY.

WE BOTH WOULD HAVE SUNK IN THAT SEA OF BLOOD

DOESN'T IT REMIND YOU OF OUR SITUATION, GARI?

OURS, BOSS?

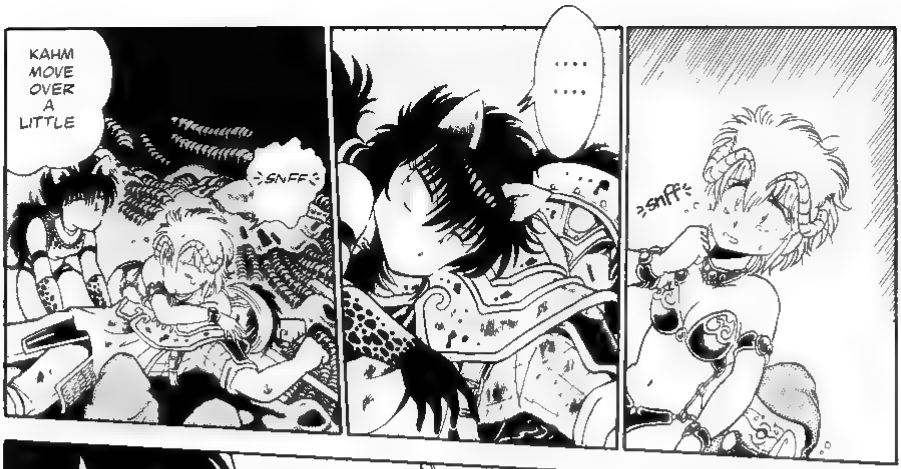
NO MATTER WHAT WE DO, HOW HARD WE FIGHT, THERE CAN ONLY BE ONE RESULT OF DEFYING THE IMPERIAL ARMY

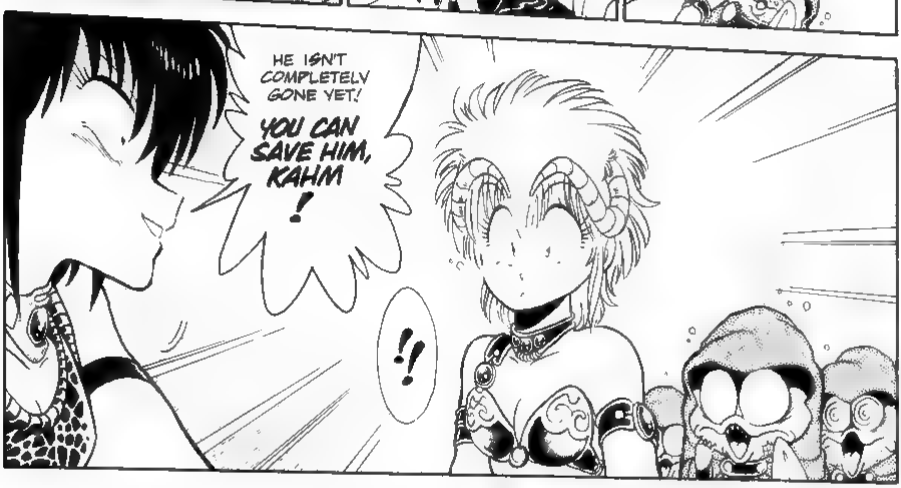
AND TO MAKE IT WORSE, IT AIN'T LIKE WE GOT A CHOICE

BUT IF WE GIVE IT ALL WE GOT, MAYBE WE CAN FIGHT OUR WAY WITHIN A INCH OF CHANGING FATE... LIKE HE DID.

COULD BE WORSE THINGS THAN HELPING HIM OUT, EH?

YEAH, BUT WHAT HELP CAN WE GIVE HIM NOW?


KAHM MOVE OVER A LITTLE
SNFF
....
....
snff

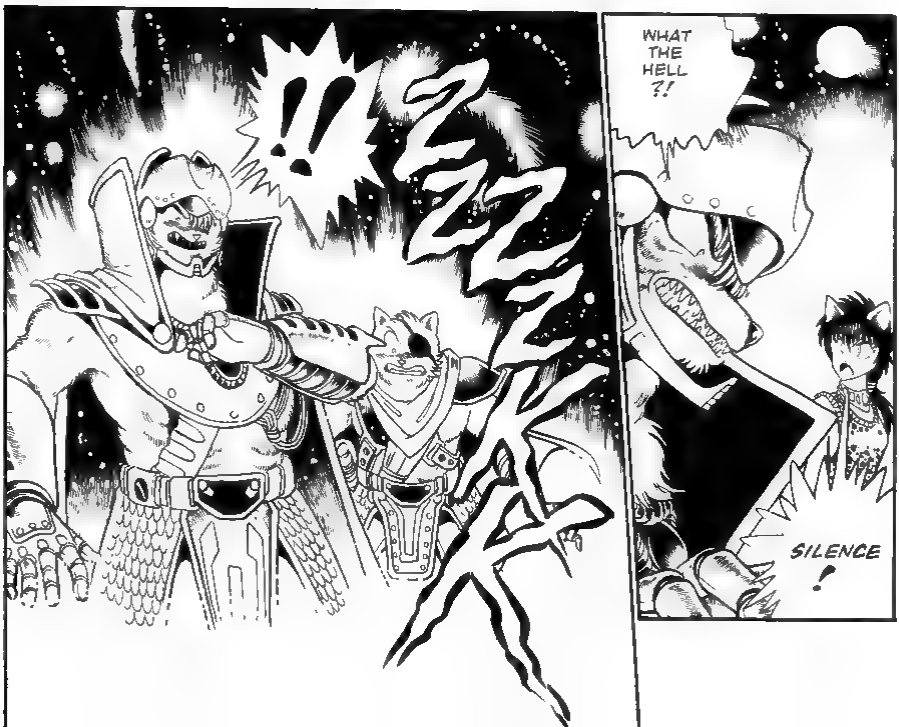

HE ISN'T COMPLETELY GONE YET!
YOU CAN SAVE HIM, KAHM!
!!

I I CAN SAVE HIM? HOW?!
YOU'LL HAVE TO HURRY!
YOU'VE GOT TO USE A RESURRECTION SPELL!
YOU REMEMBER HOW, DONT YOU?
I I'VE NEVER ACTUALLY TRIED, B-BUT

Oh, gods of the great void..
Oh, spirits of earth below...
In the name of the reverend Santovasku...
Let me bring once again to this hollow flesh..
the breath of sacred life!
BOSS, WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN?
HRMM.

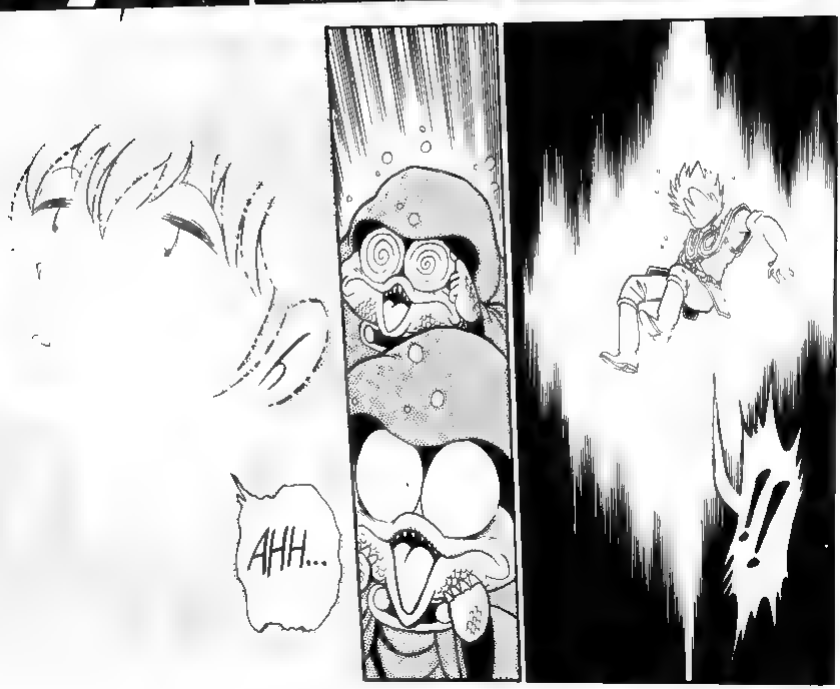
NAO.. MOVE YOUR PEOPLE BACK. THIS IS VERY DANGEROUS..
YOU COULD GET KILLED!
Y-YES, MA'AM!

DON'T WORRY-- KAHM WOULD NEVER LET TETSUYA DIE NEVER!!
BATTIA, JUST WHAT IN HELL IS GOING ON HERE?!
CAN SHE REALLY BRING HIM BACK?
IT'S ONE OF THE VERY HIGHEST ARTS.


!!
WHAT THE HELL?!
SILENCE!

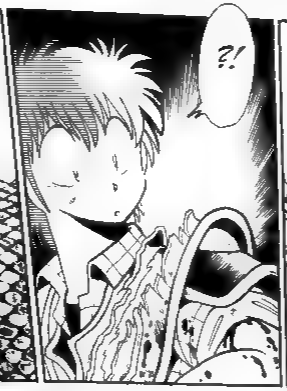
KAHM IS USING HER OWN PSYCHIC ENERGIES TO BRING TETSUYA BACK FROM DEATH.
HIS LIFE-FORCE WAVES HAVE ALMOST STOPPED SO SHE MUST HARMONIZE HER OWN LIFE-FORCE ENERGY WITH HIS
ONLY THEN CAN SHE GIVE HIM PART OF HER OWN SPIRIT AND LET HIM LIVE AGAIN.
ONLY A PSYCHIC ADEPT OF THE ROYAL FAMILY CAN MASTER THIS SPELL.
I WON'T LET YOU DIE..

NOT EVER !!
EEEK !


AHH...
!!

KWHOOMP
WHOOLF

OW OW OWWW!
WHAT THE HELL ?


?!

MY ARMOR .
WHY AREN'T I...?

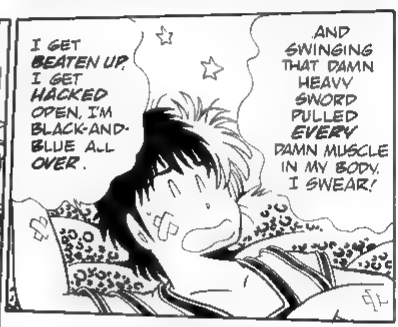
KAHM !
WHY.. AM I STILL ALIVE ?

WAAAAAAAAAA

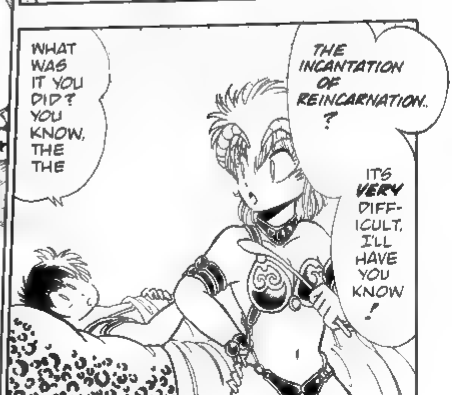
LET'S GO
YES SIR!
ALL RIGHT, MEN! THE FUN IS OVER!
BACK TO YOUR POSTS!
HEY, KID!
STOP BY MY CABIN AND HOIST A FEW WITH ME LATER, EH?
HUH?!
IN OTHER WORDS, A HAPPY ENDING!
HMPH!

Ww...
I'M IN PAIN!

OH, QUIT YOUR WHINING I'M MAKING YOUR MEDICINE SO JUST PUT UP WITH IT FOR A WHILE, OKAY?
THAT'S EASY FOR YOU TO SAY.
....


I GET BEATEN UP, I GET HACKED OPEN, I'M BLACK-AND-BLUE ALL OVER.
AND SWINGING THAT DAMN HEAVY SWORD PULLED EVERY DAMN MUSCLE IN MY BODY, I SWEAR!

WELL YOU SHOULD JUST BE GLAD YOU'RE NOT DEAD!


WHAT WAS IT YOU DID? YOU KNOW, THE THE
THE INCANTATION OF REINCARNATION..?
IT'S VERY DIFF-ICULT, I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW!

I USED THE ANIMATE SPIRITS IN THE ÆTHER TO CHANNEL A PORTION OF MY OWN LIFE-FORCE INTO YOU, WHILE HARMONIZING OUR BLAH BLAH BLAH. .

SORRY I ASKED..!

OKAY OKAY . I GET IT. MAKES PERFECT SENSE NOW.

SO WHY DON'T YOU ABACADABRA ME ALL WELL AGAIN, HUH?

NO WAY!

WHY NOT?!

BECAUSE I'VE NEVER HAD THE CHANCE TO NURSE A LOVED ONE BACK TO HEALTH BEFORE!

HEY HEY! WHAT'RE YOU UP TO? GET OUT OF THERE!!

EH heh heh heh

I'VE GOT TO GIVE THE WOUNDED WARRIOR HIS REWARD, YOU KNOW!

HIS WARM WONDERFUL REWARD!

WHA-- WHA--?!

HMM THINK WE BETTER COME BACK LATER HUH?

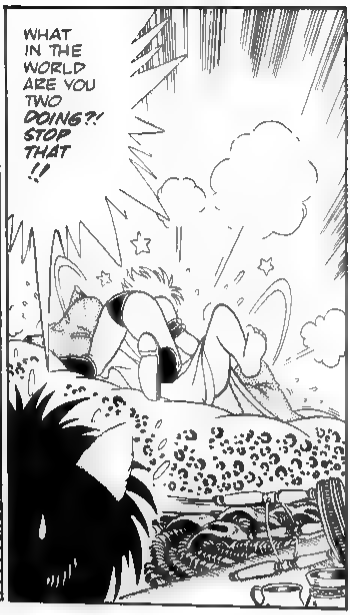
JUST LIKE YOU WHEN YOU WERE YOUNG, BOGG

Giggle

SMOOCH

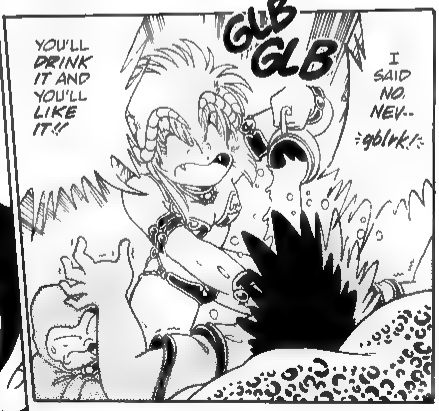
LATER
YOU ON YOUR FEET AGAIN, BUDDY ?!

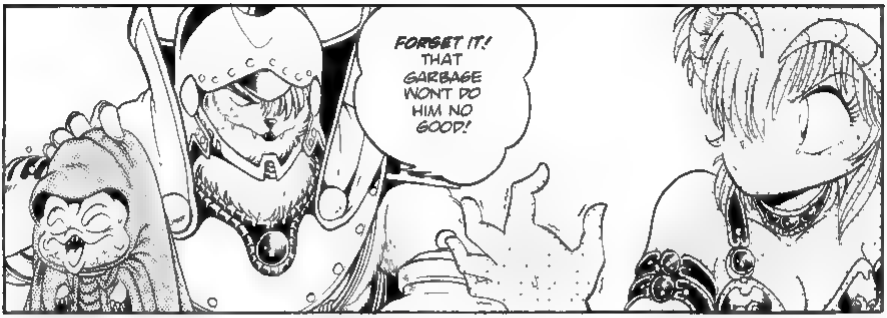
!


WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE YOU TWO DOING?! STOP THAT !!

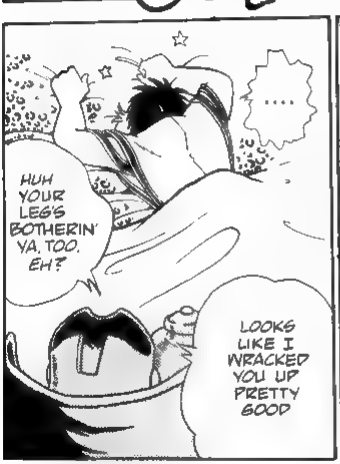
TETSUYA WON'T DRINK MY MEDICINE !!
DAMNED RIGHT !!
RESISTANCE IS HOPELESS, MR TETSUYA! YOU'RE SURROUNDED !

IF YOU'D JUST DRINK THIS, YOU'D GET BETTER !
IF I DRINK THAT STUFF, I'M BETTER OFF DEAD!! AND YOU MADE ABOUT TEN GALLONS !!


YOU'LL DRINK IT AND YOU'LL LIKE IT!!
GLB GLB
I SAID NO. NEV-- :gblrk!:

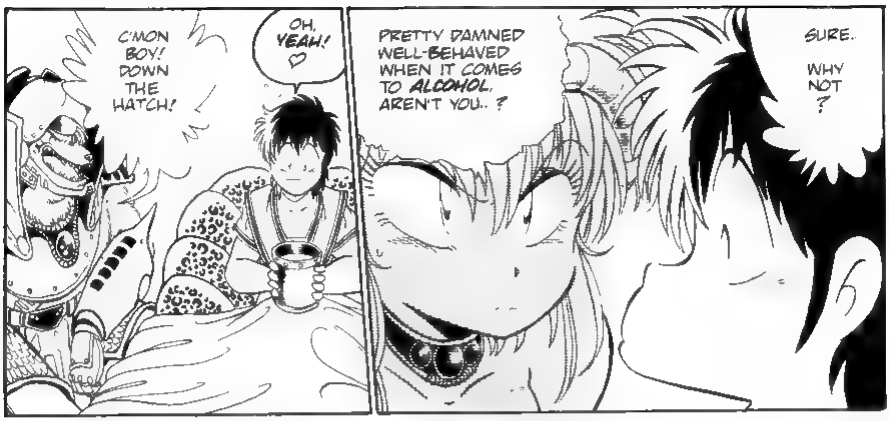

FORGET IT! THAT GARBAGE WON'T DO HIM NO GOOD!

THIS WILL !!
WHUD!
BOOZE! THE MEDICINE OF THE GODS !
GYAAA!


....
HUH YOUR LEG'S BOTHERIN' YA, TOO, EH?
LOOKS LIKE I WRACKED YOU UP PRETTY GOOD

I CAN'T STAND IT ANYMORE
JUST LET ME DIE IN PEACE. !

DON'T GIMME THAT CRAP, KID!
HERE-- HAVE A SLUG!


C'MON BOY! DOWN THE HATCH!
OH, YEAH!
PRETTY DAMNED WELL-BEHAVED WHEN IT COMES TO ALCOHOL, AREN'T YOU..?
SURE.
WHY NOT?

WATCH THIS-- ALL AT ONE GO!
GLUG GLUG GLUG

wheeew!! GOOD STUFF!

YAAAH!!

?
hee hee hee

EEEP...
....
BWHAHAHA! THAT'S NOVA RUM FROM THE PLANET KATSUDON! GOES DOWN SMOOTH BUT IT'S A REAL KICK IN THE BUTT, EH?!
REALLY ? GEE !
OH NO YOU DON'T !

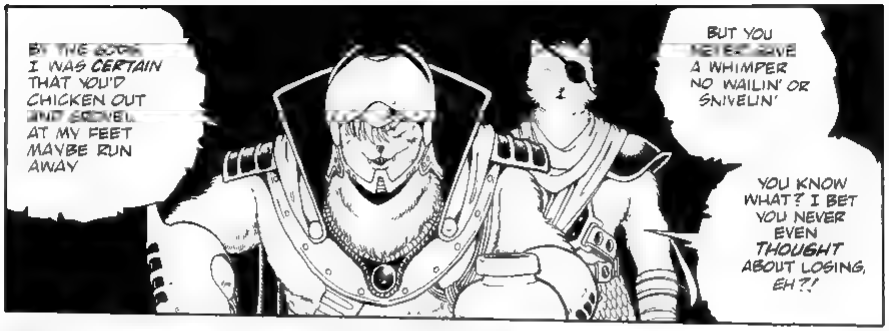
YOU CRACK ME UP, LITTLE BUDDY BUT WE'LL GET YOU SWILLING THAT STUFF LIKE WATER!
ONCE YOU CAN PUT AWAY A KEG OF IT BY YOURSELF, YOU'LL BE A REAL MAN!

BETTER GET USED TO IT, OR HOW THE HELL WE GONNA TOAST OUR VICTORY, HUH?
ONCE WE'VE SMASHED THE IMPERIAL ARMY AND SAVED THE EARTH, LET'S GET REALLY TANKED!
WHA ?
ZZZ

NOTHIN GOES DOWN BETTER THAN THE FIRST DRINK AFTER A VICTORY !
AFTER WE'VE SAVED THE EARTH, YOU SAID ?!

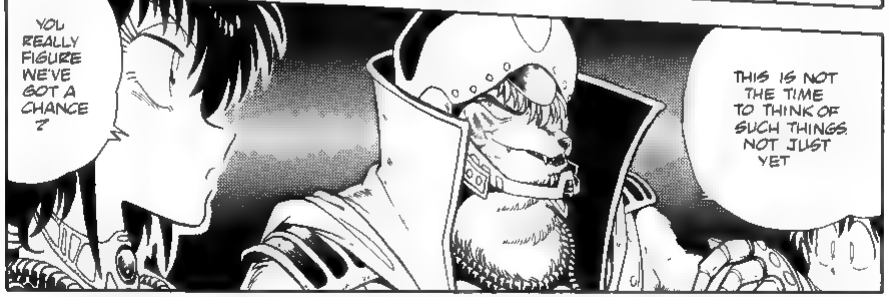
BUT
BUT I
I LOST, DIDN'T I?

YEAH, BUT YOU PROVED TO ME THAT YOU MEANT WHAT YOU SAID

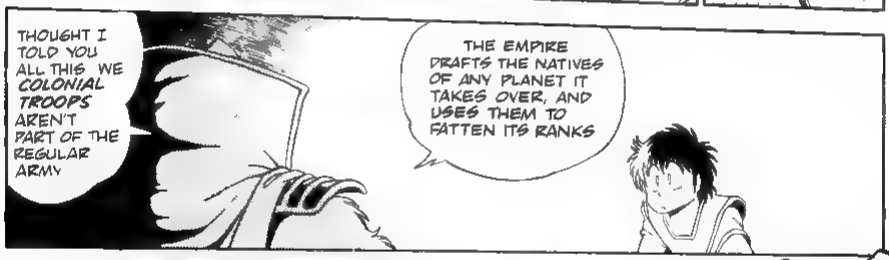

BY THE GODS I WAS CERTAIN THAT YOU'D CHICKEN OUT AND GROVEL AT MY FEET MAYBE RUN AWAY
BUT YOU NEVER GAVE A WHIMPER NO WAILIN' OR SNIVELIN'
YOU KNOW WHAT? I BET YOU NEVER EVEN THOUGHT ABOUT LOSING, EH?!

I LIKE YOUR FIGHT, BOY.. I LIKE IT JUST FINE
DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU WIN OR LOSE, AS LONG AS YOU GIVE IT ALL YOU'VE GOT AND THAT'S THE ONLY WAY WE CAN FIGHT THE GODDAMNED IMPERIAL ARMY!

THIS IS TRUE?! YOU'LL REALLY FIGHT THE EMPIRE, TOGETHER WITH US?
DAMNED RIGHT!
YOU SEE?! IT WAS WORTH A LITTLE PAIN!
NYA HA HA HA!
SO, THEN, GEOBALD!


YOU REALLY FIGURE WE'VE GOT A CHANCE?
THIS IS NOT THE TIME TO THINK OF SUCH THINGS, NOT JUST YET

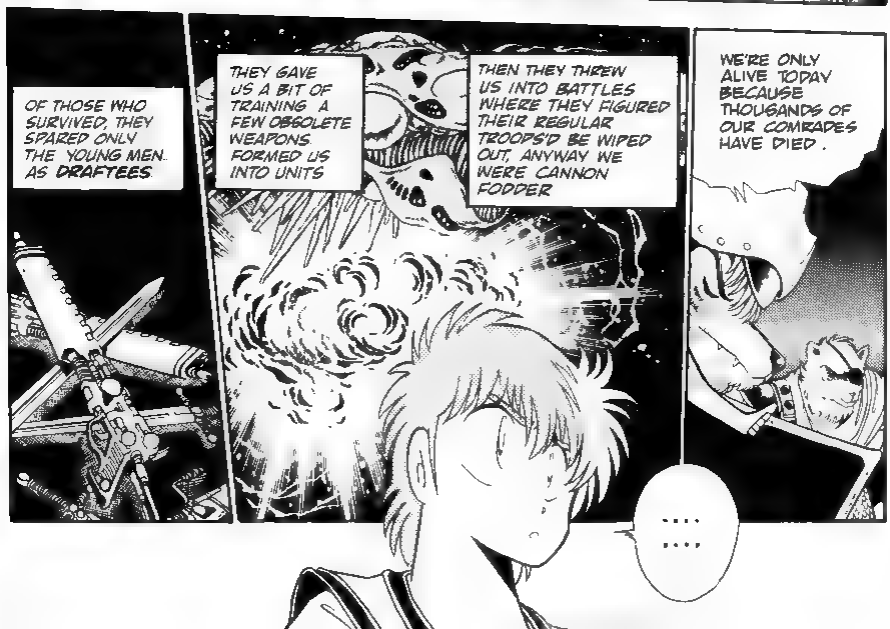
ANY COMPARISON OF OUR COMBAT STRENGTH WOULD BE MEANINGLESS.
EVEN THE LOSS OF A COUPLE OF DIVISIONS WON'T EVEN GET THE ATTENTION OF THE IMPERIAL ARMY BE LIKE IT NEVER HAPPENED
SO IT'S HOPELESS. ?
DON'T YOU WORRY, PAL! THERE'S GOTTA BE A WAY!
WE COLONIAL GUYS HAVE BEEN USED AS COMBAT SLAVES ALL OUR LIVES.
I CAN SEE IT LIKE IT WAS YESTERDAY
"COMBAT SLAVES".?

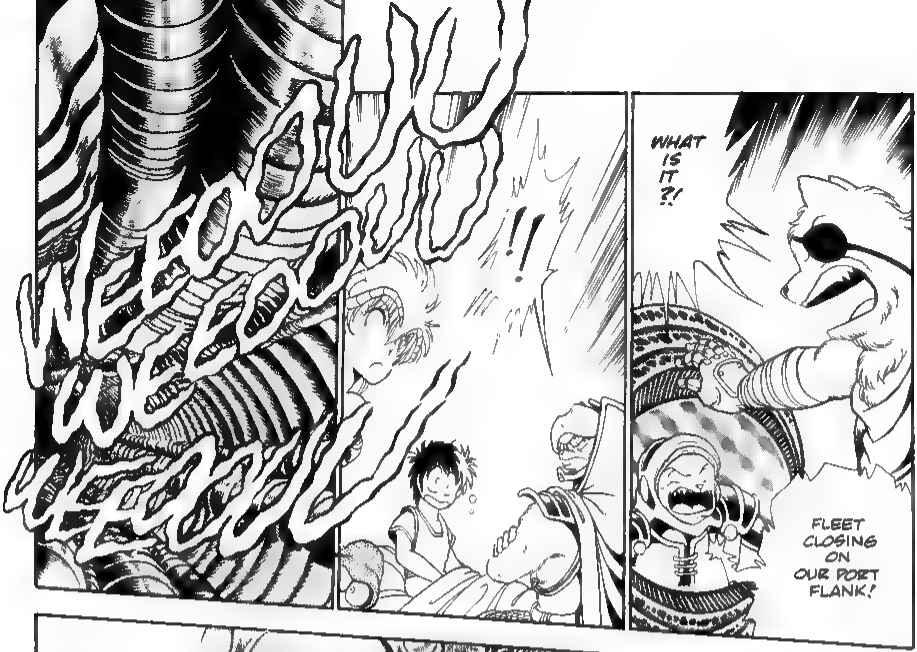

THOUGHT I TOLD YOU ALL THIS WE COLONIAL TROOPS AREN'T PART OF THE REGULAR ARMY
THE EMPIRE DRAFTS THE NATIVES OF ANY PLANET IT TAKES OVER, AND USES THEM TO FATTEN ITS RANKS

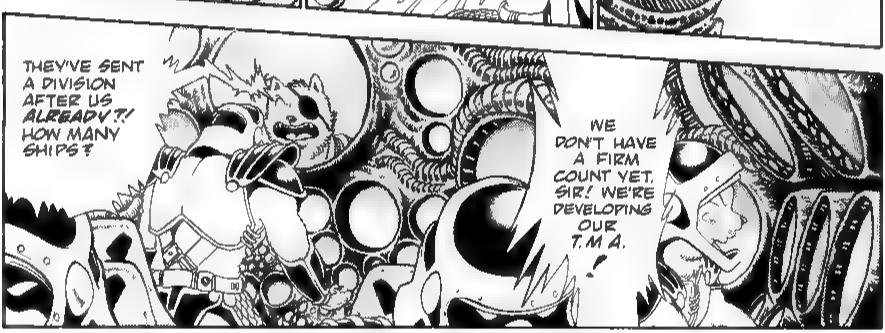
I REMEMBER.
I REMEMBER THE DAY THOSE BASTARDS CAME TO MY HOME WORLD

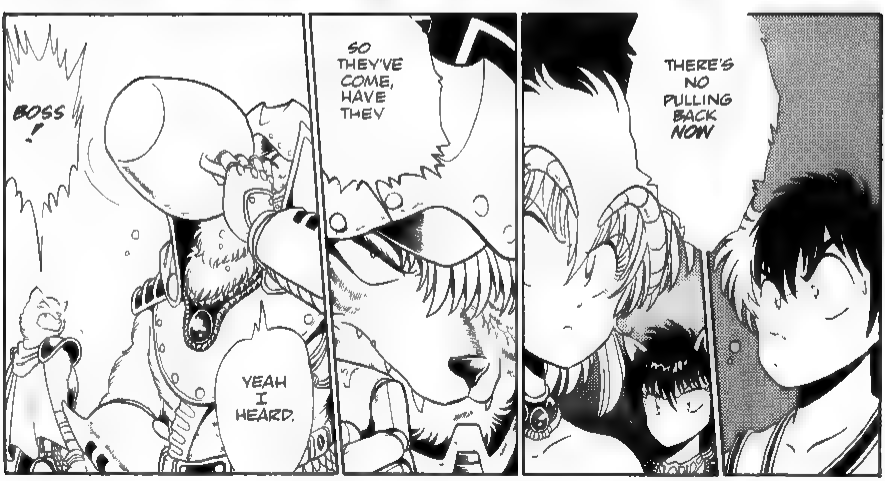
THEY GAVE US, THE GADOM PEOPLE, A CHOICE--BECOME THEIR SLAVES OR BE ANNIHILATED. THEN THEY LAID WASTE TO MOST OF OUR PLANET
THERE WASN'T A GODDAMN THING WE COULD DO.
WE WERE SO BACKWARD WE'D NEVER EVEN IMAGINED SOMETHIN' LIKE AN ALIEN

BY THE END OF THE FIRST DAY, IT WAS ALL OVER

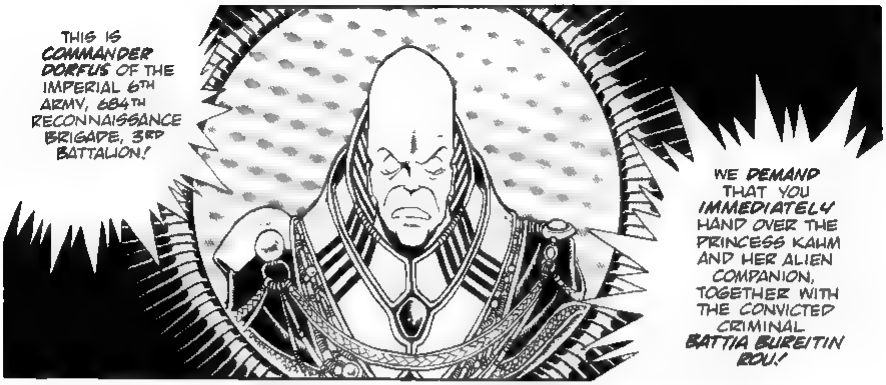

OF THOSE WHO SURVIVED, THEY SPARED ONLY THE YOUNG MEN. AS DRAFTEES.
THEY GAVE US A BIT OF TRAINING A FEW OBSOLETE WEAPONS FORMED US INTO UNITS
THEN THEY THREW US INTO BATTLES WHERE THEY FIGURED THEIR REGULAR TROOPS'D BE WIPED OUT, ANYWAY WE WERE CANNON FODDER
WE'RE ONLY ALIVE TODAY BECAUSE THOUSANDS OF OUR COMRADES HAVE DIED .
....


WEEOOU WEEOOU WEEOOU
!!
WHAT IS IT ?!
FLEET CLOSING ON OUR PORT FLANK!

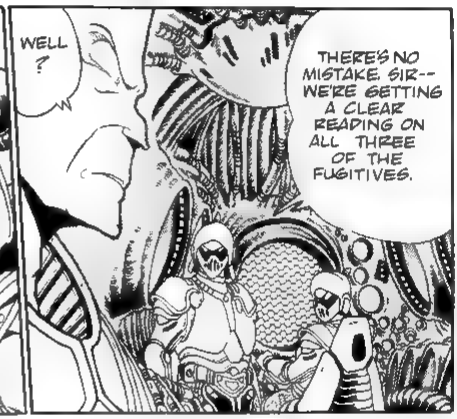

THEY'VE SENT A DIVISION AFTER US ALREADY ?! HOW MANY SHIPS ?
WE DON'T HAVE A FIRM COUNT YET, SIR! WE'RE DEVELOPING OUR T.M.A. !


BOSS !
YEAH I HEARD.
SO THEY'VE COME, HAVE THEY
THERE'S NO PULLING BACK NOW

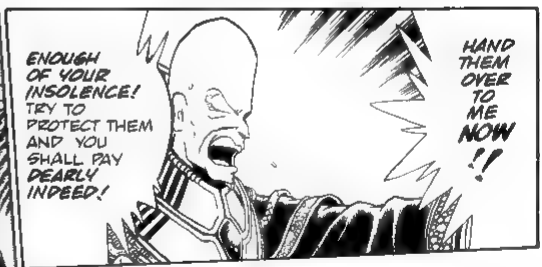
WWWWWWWW
ONE MERUNDEUS-CLASS BATTLESHIP! TWELVE ARMORED CRUISERS! MULTIPLE ASSAULT CRAFT!
RANGE 120,000 MRETZ AND CLOSING AT FLANK SPEED!
HRMM A SINGLE BATTALION, AT MOST.
NOT THE DIVISION I FEARED...
MUST BE A RECONNAISSANCE BATTALION OUT AFTER PRINCESS KAHM
THEY'RE HAILING US, SIR!
VERY WELL-- OPEN THE CHANNEL


THIS IS COMMANDER DORFUS OF THE IMPERIAL 6TH ARMY, 684TH RECONNAISSANCE BRIGADE, 3RD BATTALION!
WE DEMAND THAT YOU IMMEDIATELY HAND OVER THE PRINCESS KAHM AND HER ALIEN COMPANION, TOGETHER WITH THE CONVICTED CRIMINAL BATTIA BUREITIN ROU!

=YAWN=
'SCUSE ME WHAT WAS THAT? PRINCESS KAHM? SORRY, CANT HELP YOU THERE

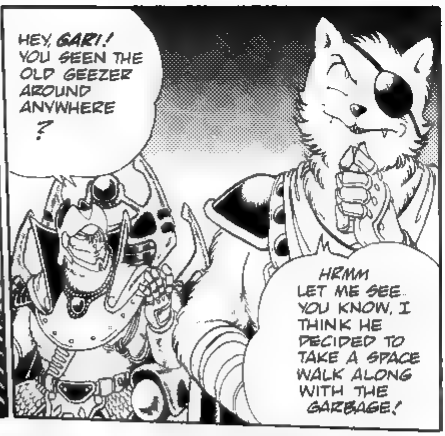

WELL ?
THERE'S NO MISTAKE, SIR-- WE'RE GETTING A CLEAR READING ON ALL THREE OF THE FUGITIVES.

SO MUCH FOR YOUR PATHETIC LIES! WE KNOW YOU HAVE THEM !
AW, SHUCKS.


ENOUGH OF YOUR INSOLENCE! TRY TO PROTECT THEM AND YOU SHALL PAY DEARLY INDEED!
HAND THEM OVER TO ME NOW !!

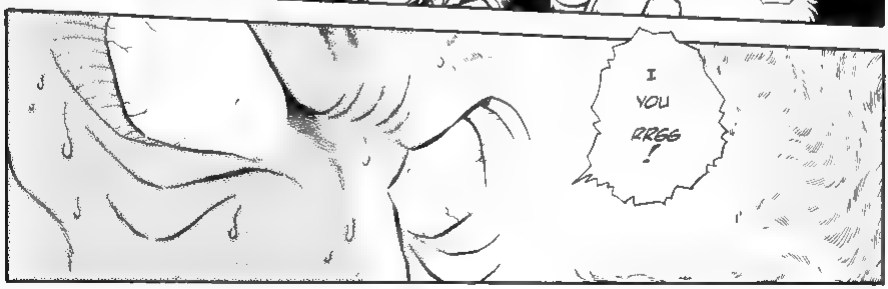
AND IF I REFUSE. ?

PAH! I HAVE NO TIME FOR IMBECILES!
I DEMAND TO SPEAK TO MARUDA GIREI! HE IS ON YOUR SHIP, IS HE NOT?


HEY, GARI! YOU SEEN THE OLD GEEZER AROUND ANYWHERE?
HRMM LET ME SEE... YOU KNOW, I THINK HE DECIDED TO TAKE A SPACE WALK ALONG WITH THE GARBAGE!

Y-YOU...
WH WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH HIGH PRIEST MARUDA?!

YOU WANT THE LADIES AND THE KID, MY FRIEND, YOU COME AND TAKE THEM!!
WE'RE READY TO PLAY ANYTIME YOU WANT!


I YOU RRGG!

I WANNA FIGHT, TOO !!
I REFUSE TO JUST SIT HERE !!
KAHM, WOULD YOU JUST WAIT, DAMMIT?! BE SENSIBLE FOR A CHANGE!!
LET GO OF ME, BATTIA!! I WANT REVENGE !!
NAO! GRAB HER FEET!
IT'S YOU THOSE GUYS ARE AFTER, SWEETIE! WHAT IF YOU SCREWED UP AND THEY ACTUALLY MANAGED TO CATCH YOU ?!
JUST LEAVE THIS ONE TO GEOBALD!
I WANT THEIR BLOOD, BATTIA. THEIR BLOOD !!
KAHM, FOR GOD'S SAKE..!
GLINKZZ!
=MIC=
HOW CAN YOU LIE AROUND DISGUSTING DRUNK AT A TIME LIKE THIS?! WAKE UP !!
SMAK SMAK
OW OW OWWW !

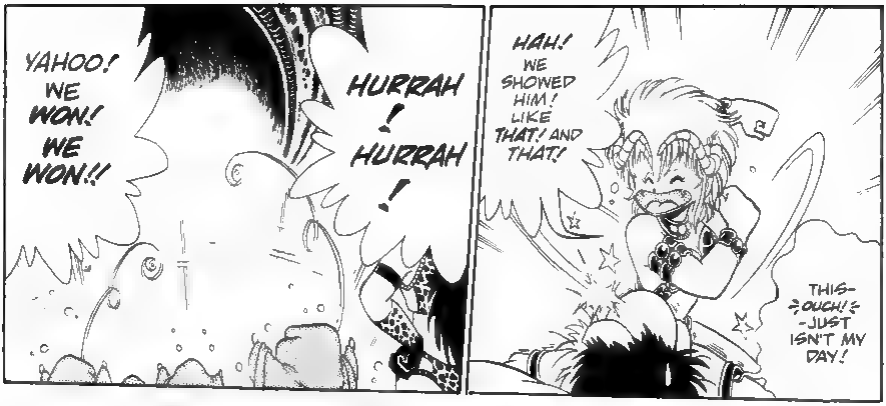
NEKOOM

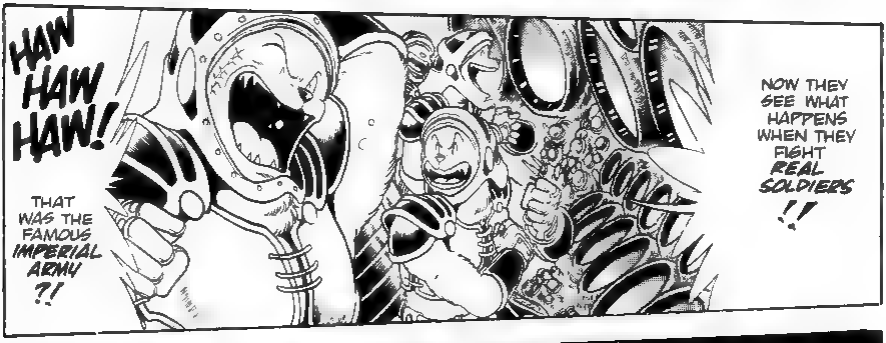
SKRASSH
FIRE! FIRE! DON'T LET ANY GET AWAY!!
KILL THEM ALL !!
SPZZK

CRUISER FOUR HAS BEEN DESTROYED, SIR!
ASSAULT CRAFT SEVENTEEN HAS BEEN DAMAGED-- WE'VE LOST CONTACT!
HOW HOW MANY SHIPS DO WE HAVE LEFT?

S-SIR THE BATTALION HAS BEEN ANNIHILATED! WE'RE THE ONLY ONES LEFT!
WHAT?!
YOU TRAITOROUS CUR!
YOU DARE TO TURN ON YOUR MASTERS?! YOU WILL BE DESTROYED..!

EEYAA!!


YAHOO! WE WON! WE WON!!
HURRAH! HURRAH!
HAH! WE SHOWED HIM! LIKE THAT! AND THAT!
THIS- ?OUCH!? -JUST ISN'T MY DAY!


HAW HAW HAW!
THAT WAS THE FAMOUS IMPERIAL ARMY ?!
NOW THEY SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THEY FIGHT REAL SOLDIERS !!

NOW IT GETS TOUGH, BOSS!
NO KIDDIN'.
THE ENTIRE IMPERIAL ARMY, EH? SHIT, I CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE HOW BIG IT IS..
LIKE FIGHTING THE WHOLE GODDAMN MILKY WAY
HELL, GIVES ME A HEADACHE JUST THINKIN' ABOUT IT..
BAH! I'M FOR A STIFF DRINK AND A SOFT BED!

AND THEN-- YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BELIEVE THIS, YURI-- SHE GOES ALL RED!
REALLY ?! OH, SHE'S SO UNCOOL !

WELL YOU KNOW WHAT I THINK--

Eep!

....

.....
.....
"A KEY CARD FOR SOMEONE'S PRIVATE QUARTERS."
D-8 405
"BLOC D-8... I'M CERTAIN THAT'S A BLOC RESTRICTED TO SENIOR OFFICERS."
?!

TOGO

I'VE BEEN WAITING..

..LADY JILEHR!

I DEMAND AN EXPLANATION

COMMANDER TOGO!

PLEASE, LET'S NOT GET EXCITED SIT DOWN

MAY I ORDER YOU SOMETHING TO DRINK?

YOU MAY NOT!

I HAVE NO INTEREST IN CEREMONY!

I WILL ASK THE QUESTIONS, AND YOU WILL ANSWER THEM--NOTHING MORE!

IS THAT SO.?

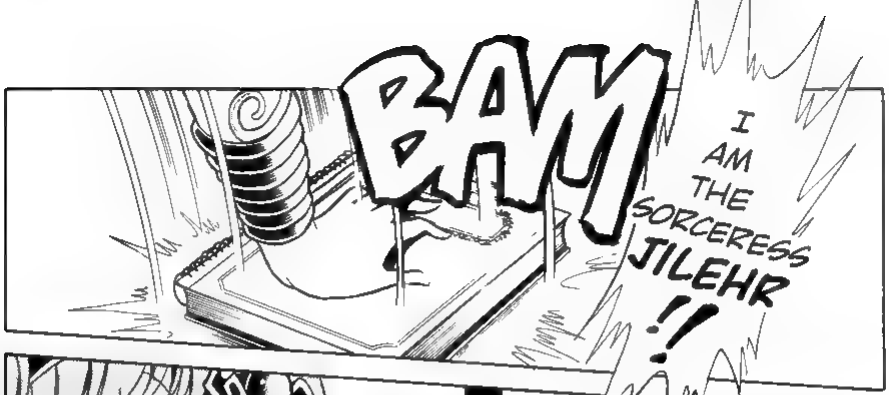
WHY DID YOU LEAVE THIS PHOTO ALBUM IN MY QUARTERS?!

EASY ENOUGH TO ANSWER BECAUSE IT BELONGS TO YOU

I WAS MERELY RETURNING IT TO ITS RIGHTFUL OWNER.

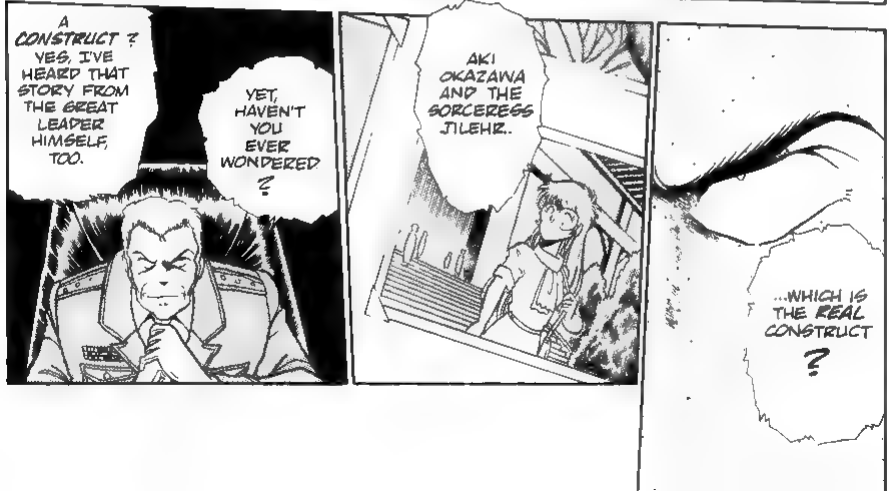
DID YOU LOOK THROUGH IT?

IT MUST HAVE BROUGHT BACK.. PLEASANT MEMORIES.


BAM
I AM THE SORCERESS JILEHR !!

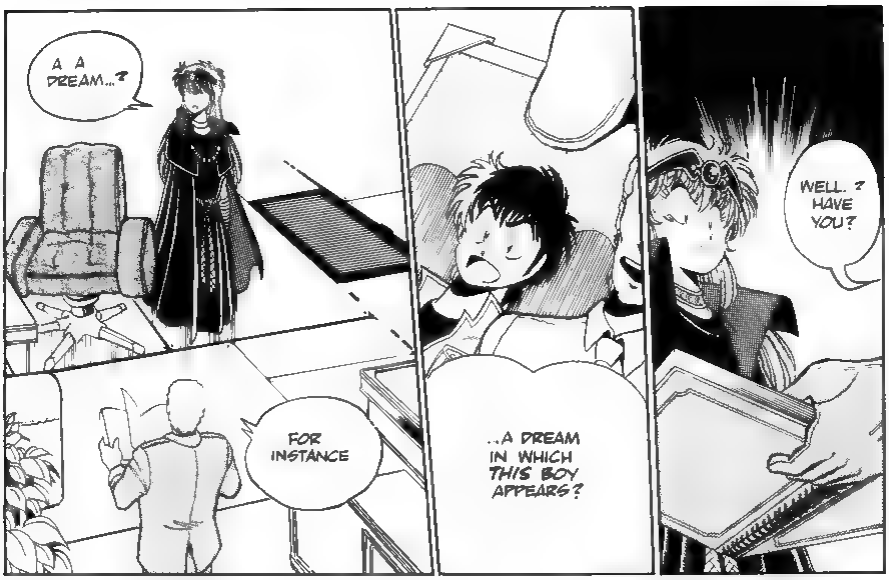
"PLEASANT MEMORIES"?
THERE IS NOTHING HERE BUT RECORDS OF THE TIME I WAS TRAPPED IN THE PERSONALITY OF THAT AKI OKAZAWA CONSTRUCT!
THEY ARE MEANINGLESS TO ME, NOW THAT I HAVE AWAKENED!

YES, IT IS TRUE THAT I SLEPT MANY YEARS BEFORE I WAS REAWAKENED BY GREAT LEADER NEO. I CAN'T DENY IT
BUT I DO NOT CARE WHAT THAT HUMAN CONSTRUCT DID WHILE MY EYES WERE SEALED!


A CONSTRUCT? YES, I'VE HEARD THAT STORY FROM THE GREAT LEADER HIMSELF, TOO.
YET, HAVEN'T YOU EVER WONDERED?
AKI OKAZAWA AND THE SORCERESS JILEHR..
...WHICH IS THE REAL CONSTRUCT?

ZZZAK

YOU CALLED ME HERE FOR THIS IDLE FOOLISHNESS ?!
I'VE PUT MY LIFE IN YOUR HANDS, LADY JILEHR.
THE LEAST YOU CAN DO IS HEAR ME OUT
....
SO... YOU ACCEPT THE CONSEQUENCES, DO YOU? THEN CONTINUE !
HAVE YOU, PERHAPS, BEEN HAVING A RECURRENT DREAM LATELY ?


A A DREAM...?
FOR INSTANCE
..A DREAM IN WHICH THIS BOY APPEARS?
WELL. ? HAVE YOU?

THIS. BOY...
WHO IS HE ?!

HIS NAME IS TETSUYA WAKATSUKI. HE'S JAPANESE, AND A NEWS PHOTOGRAPHER.
AN OLD COLLEAGUE OF AKI OKAZAWA'S, FROM HER DAYS WITH THE TOA DAILY NEWSPAPER.

I HEARD THAT MOST OF THOSE JAPANESE, AS YOU CALL THEM, HAVE BEEN EXTERMINATED
YES, AND SO IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN WITH THIS WAKATSUKI
BUT AS IT TURNS OUT, HE'S STILL ALIVE.

SO? WHAT OF IT?
WERE THIS MAN AND AKI OKAZAWA IN SOME KIND OF SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP ?
NO. NOT AT ALL TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEGE, THERE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN NONE OF THAT
THEY WERE-- HOW CAN I SAY IT?-- JUST GOOD FIGHTING FRIENDS. SOMETHING LIKE THAT
STILL YOU DO NOT REMEMBER ?
WHAT DO YOU EXPECT ME TO REMEMBER ?!
THE EXPERIENCES OF THE WOMAN YOU CALL A "CONSTRUCT".
THE FACT THAT YOU DREAM MEANS THOSE MEMORIES STILL LINGER
YOU SPEAK OF NONSENSE! HOW CAN THERE BE TWO PERSONALITIES AND TWO SETS OF MEMORIES IN ONE BODY?
WHEN I AWOKE, ALL THAT WAS AKI OKAZAWA VANISHED UTTERLY !
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO TO ME, TOGO ?!
IT IS IN YOUR OWN INTEREST TO REMEMBER THESE THINGS, MY LADY

NEO HAS TRICKED YOU, JILEHR!!

HE'S BRAINWASHED YOU INTO THINKING YOU'RE A SORCERESS!

NO.

NO. THIS CANNOT BE...

THE SORCERESS JILEHR IS A FICTION!! SHE NEVER EXISTED, THEN OR NOW!

ALL THAT EXISTS IS THE COLLECTIVE HATRED OF THE YOMA CLAN!!

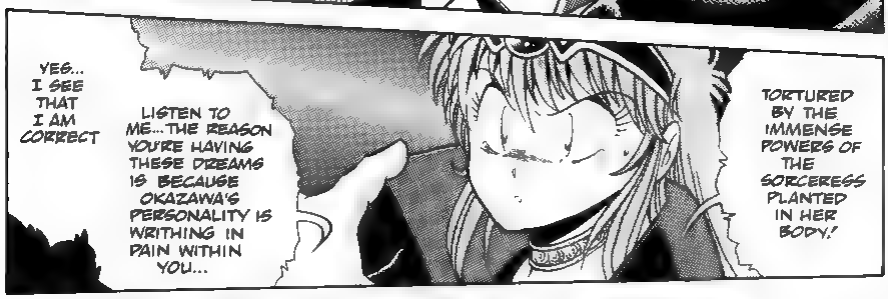
...AND YOU ARE JUST BEING USED BY THAT COLLECTIVE WILL!

AAA!
ZZRAK

WHDD
HNNK...

COMMANDER! WHAT'S GOING ON ?!
COMMANDER TOGO!!
IT
IT'S NOTHING. IGNORE IT.
JUST DO IT! AND...
I WANT THIS BLOC SEALED! NO ONE ENTERS, UNDERSTAND ?!
GO! YOU REALLY DO WISH TO DIE!
IN THAT CASE, I SHALL GRANT YOUR WISH!
KILL ME, AND YOU'LL NEVER KNOW THE TRUTH
STILL YOU SPEAK OF THESE LIES! EVEN NOW ?!
YOU HEAR THE TRUTH IN MY WORDS. I KNOW.

AKI OKAZAWA'S MEMORIES ARE HAUNTING YOU!


YES... I SEE THAT I AM CORRECT
LISTEN TO ME...THE REASON YOU'RE HAVING THESE DREAMS IS BECAUSE OKAZAWA'S PERSONALITY IS WRITHING IN PAIN WITHIN YOU...
TORTURED BY THE IMMENSE POWERS OF THE SORCERESS PLANTED IN HER BODY!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN... "PLANTED".. ?
DRIVEN BY THEIR FANATIC QUEST FOR VENGENCE, THEY'VE STOLEN THE BODY OF A MODERN DAY WOMAN, TO BE REBORN AS THE MYTHICAL JILEHR!
YES, YOU WERE A SPLENDID SPECIMEN, ALL THEY COULD HOPE FOR! INTELLIGENT, INQUISITIVE, A KEEN SIXTH SENSE, TREMENDOUS CONCENTRATION ..
THE HATRED OF THE YOMA CLAN, THEIR HOMELAND DESTROYED, WANDERING WITH NO REST FOR UNTOLD CENTURIES..
..HAS COALESCED INTO A SINGLE, SEETHING, ENERGY FIELD
AND THE WOMAN CHOSEN TO BE THE HOST WAS YOU. AKI OKAZAWA !!
BUT THERE WAS JUST ONE PROBLEM. YOUR PERSONALITY WAS SO STRONG THAT IT COULD NOT BE CRUSHED--NOT TOTALLY--EVEN BY THE POWERS OF NEO HIMSELF!

YOU ARE A FOOL!!

YOU EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE SUCH NONSENSE ?!

DO NOT UNDERESTIMATE ME, EARTHLING!

I AM THE SORCERESS JILEHR!

THE STRONGEST MAGICIAN EVER BORN!

BY ALL RIGHTS, I SHOULD EXECUTE YOU HERE AND NOW..

BUT YOU ARE AN IMPORTANT PART OF THIS ORGANIZATION. YOU SHALL LIVE!

BUT YOU MUST NEVER AGAIN POISON MY EARS WITH THIS NONSENSE!

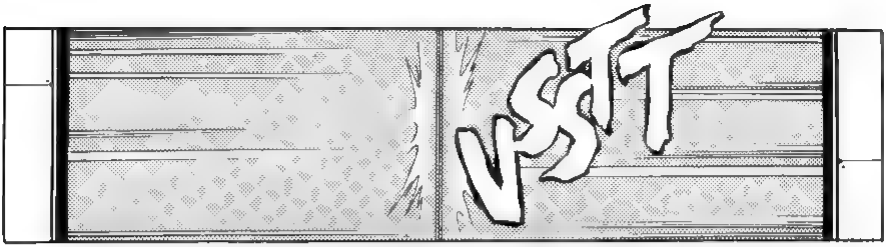
DON'T FOOL YOURSELF.. YOU WILL COME HERE AGAIN.

YES. IN SEARCH OF THE TRUTH..

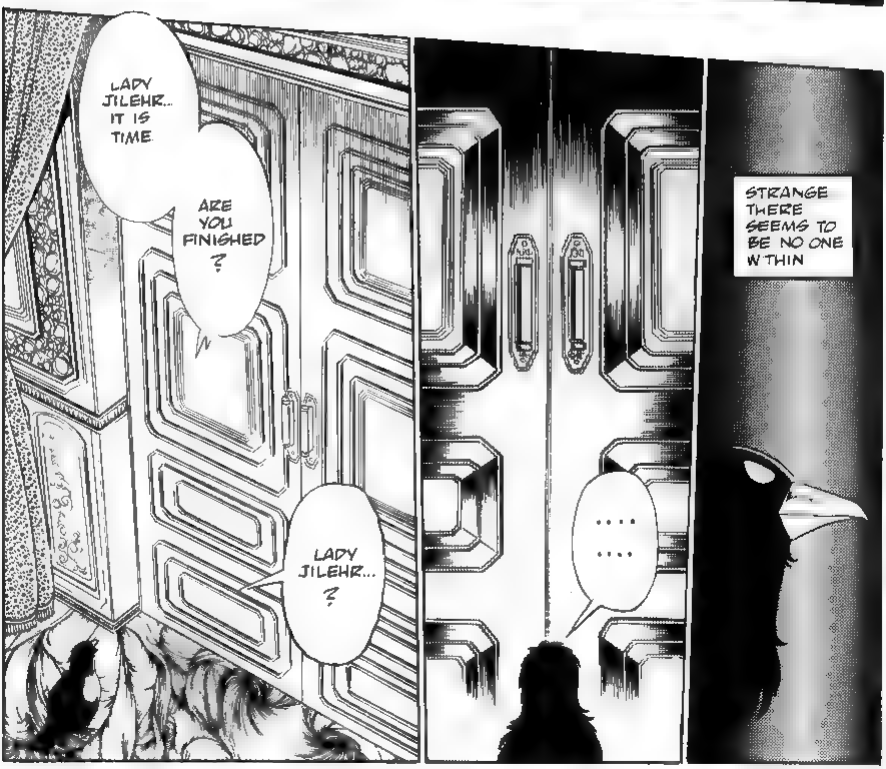
....

....

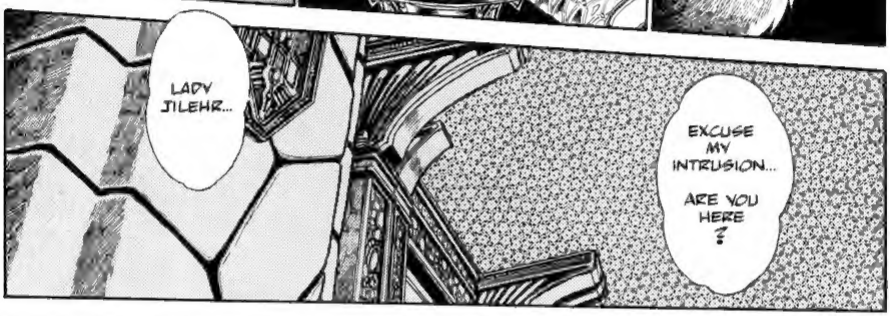
I'LL BE WAITING.

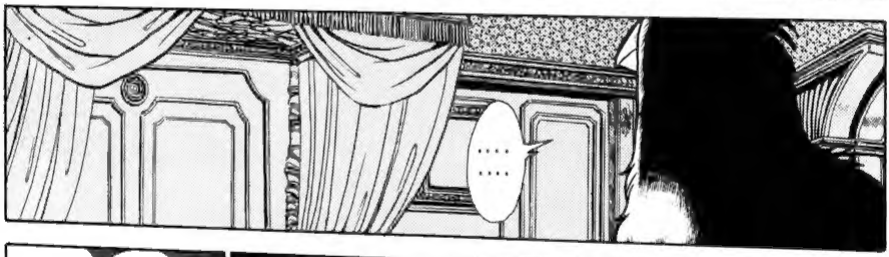

VSFT

THIS IS EXCELLENT...
IN TIME, SHE WILL BE IN MY HANDS...


LADY JILEHR... IT IS TIME.
ARE YOU FINISHED ?
LADY JILEHR... ?
....
....
STRANGE THERE SEEMS TO BE NO ONE WITHIN

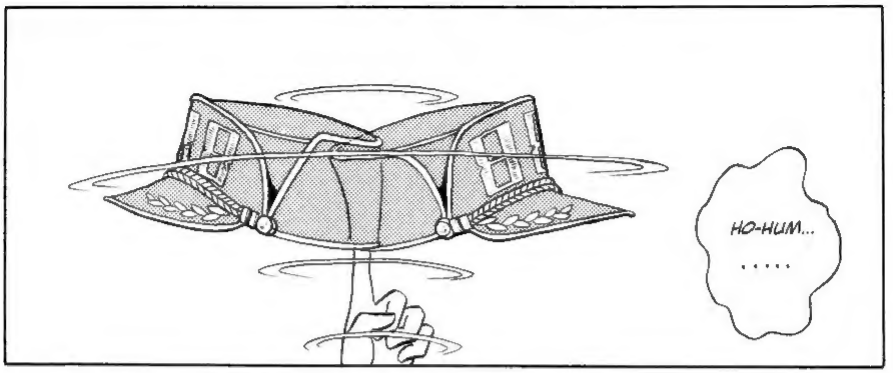
FFFT
POOF

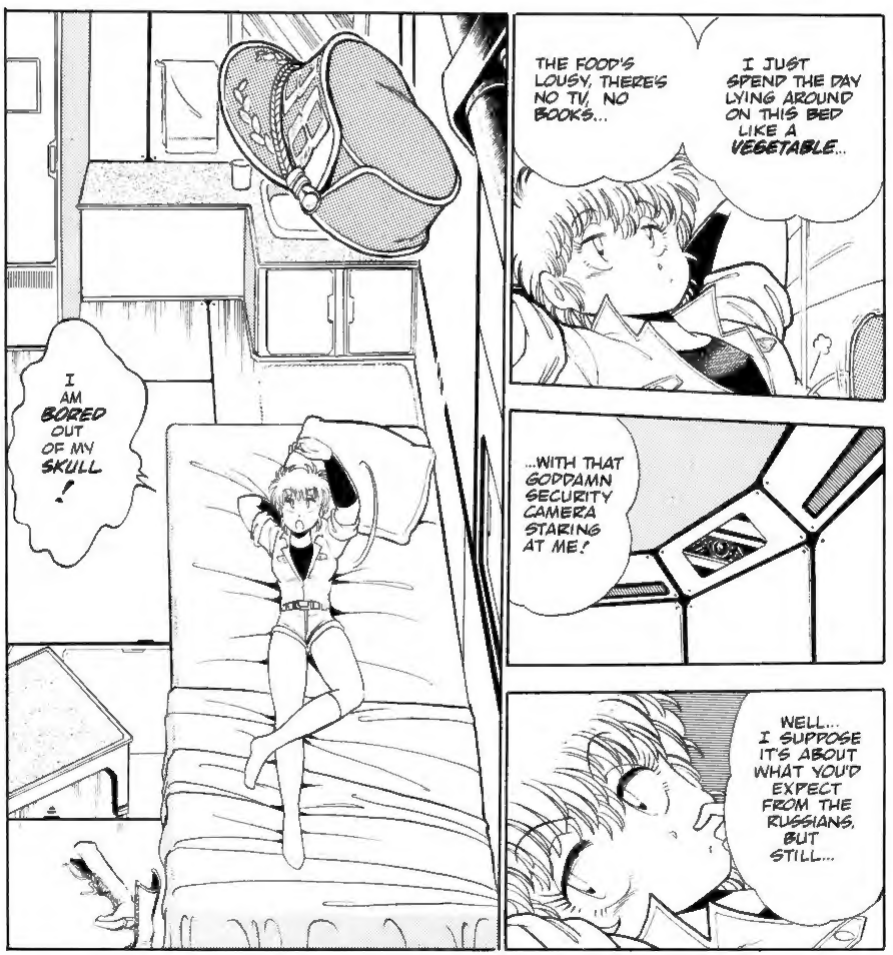

LADY JILEHR...
EXCUSE MY INTRUSION... ARE YOU HERE?

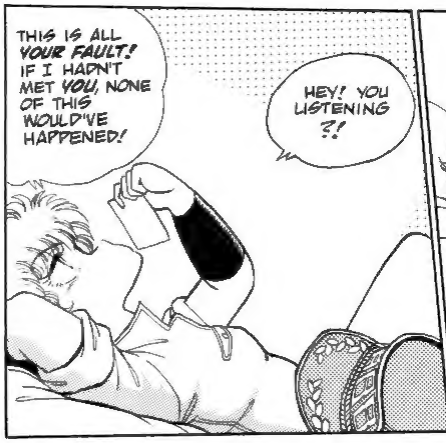

....
....

SHE'S GONE...
I WONDER WHERE SHE WENT?
PERHAPS SHE'S WITH GREAT LEADER NEO...
VERY WELL, THEN!

L-
LORD NEO!!


HO-HUM...
.....


I AM BORED OUT OF MY SKULL!
THE FOOD'S LOUSY, THERE'S NO TV, NO BOOKS...
I JUST SPEND THE DAY LYING AROUND ON THIS BED LIKE A VEGETABLE...
...WITH THAT GODDAMN SECURITY CAMERA STARING AT ME!
WELL... I SUPPOSE IT'S ABOUT WHAT YOU'D EXPECT FROM THE RUSSIANS, BUT STILL...


THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT! IF I HADN'T MET YOU, NONE OF THIS WOULD'VE HAPPENED!
HEY! YOU LISTENING ?!

C'MON SAY SOMETHING!
TAKE A LITTLE RESPONSIBILITY!

"THE ALIENS WOULD NOT HAVE TAKEN HIM AWAY FOR NOTHING...AND MOREOVER, IT WAS A HIGH-RANKING OFFICER THAT DID SO!"

"MOST LIKELY IT WAS FOR PERSONAL, PERHAPS EVEN EMOTIONAL REASONS.."
.....
.....

BULL$%&!
JUST SLEEP, RAISA... SLEEP..